

Sultan warns of dangers of war

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi Arabia's defence minister was quoted Saturday as saying he did not believe recent U.S.-Syrian clashes in Lebanon would lead to a Middle East war. But the minister, Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, warned that "No-one would benefit from such a war, not even Israel, because we shall not stand idle. A New Middle East war will harm Israel and its interests and the interests of those who support it." Prince Sultan told the London-based daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, also published here. The prince said a recent strategic co-operation accord between the U.S. and Israel was an "improper step and Washington remains under the shadow of Israeli illusions." The Saudi defence minister said he did not think any Arab state wanted to fight Israel now "because the Arabs have declared their peaceful intentions at the Fez conference (last year) which produced an Arab peace plan."

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U.N. stands by promise to PLO

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations said Saturday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could use the U.N. flag as symbolic protection for the evacuation of its troops from Tripoli. A spokesman for the world body was responding to a report from Athens on Thursday that Greek ships conveying the PLO fighters out of Lebanon would not fly the U.N. emblem, as was previously agreed despite Israeli protests.

Luce meets Qaboos

MUSCAT (R) — British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Richard Luce discussed the Lebanon situation and the Iran-Iraq war with Sultan Qaboos of Oman and other senior officials Saturday. The spokesman said Mr. Luce, who arrived on Thursday, had visited the strategic Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf through which a sixth of the non-communist world's oil imports pass. Mr. Luce left by road for Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after Saturday's meeting, he added.

N.Korea holds 2 Japanese for spying

TOKYO (R) — Two crew members of a Japanese ship detained in North Korea have confessed to spying, the North Korean Central News Agency reported Saturday. The agency, monitored here, identified the men as master and chief engineer of the No. 18 Fujisaki Maru, held at Maspo port on the western coast of North Korea since Nov. 15. The agency said the men confessed their ship had "systematically carried out espionage" in North Korean waters and ports. Earlier, the ship's owners said North Korea had demanded the return of a North Korean defector being in return for the ship and its five-member crew.

Pakistan police hunt for saboteurs

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — Police in Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) are searching for saboteurs believed to have been sent into the country by neighbouring Afghanistan, police sources said Saturday. Pakistani authorities have in the past blamed most sabotage on the Al-Zulfikar group which they say is led by Murtaza Bhutto, eldest son of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, with headquarters in the Afghan capital Kabul.

Manchester hotel fire kills 4

MANCHESTER, England (R) — At least four people died and seven were injured when fire engulfed a small hotel in Manchester early Saturday and police said the blaze may have been started deliberately. Two people were still unaccounted for when the fire was extinguished and the building was being searched, he said. Police said survivors were being interviewed about the possible cause of the blaze, which was regarded as suspicious.

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PLO leader sees off Italian hospital ship

Injured Arafat loyalists evacuated from Tripoli

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — An Italian hospital ship sailed from this port Saturday with about 100 wounded backers of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the first phase of the evacuation of his supporters after a six-week siege.

The wounded, including 20 civilians, hobbled on crutches or were carried on stretchers by workers of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), aboard the converted ferry Appia at Tripoli harbour.

A Red Cross official said the badly wounded evacuees needed special treatment unavailable at the crowded hospitals in Tripoli. Of Saturday's evacuees, 10 will go to Yugoslavia, seven to Greece and the rest to Egypt, he said.

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), toured two Palestinian hospitals to bid his departing supporters farewell, kissing patients as they waited to be taken out in ambulances.

Mr. Arafat, besieged here by Syrian troops and Palestinian dissidents, is due to leave with 4,000 of his followers early next week in what would be his second exit from Lebanon.

The PLO leader was forced to evacuate his former guerrilla base in Beirut in August 1982 after a siege by Israeli forces.

A harbour official to Larnaca said the Appia was due to arrive there at about 2000 GMT Saturday.



Yasser Arafat

Tripoli docks to inspect the hospital ship which had large red crosses painted on its bows and flew the Red Cross flag.

Asked to comment about his feelings on the occasion, Mr. Arafat said: "For me, what is important is the rights of my people and the future of the children. That is what is important, not my own personal future."

The evacuation followed weeks of negotiations to allow Mr. Arafat and his men to leave.

They will start leaving Tripoli on Monday aboard five Greek ships escorted by French warships for protection.

Greece asked for the escort after Israeli gunboats attacked Palestinian positions and Israel refused to give a commitment that it would not attack the evacuation flotilla.

Ahmad Abdulrahman, Mr. Arafat's spokesman, said 4,000 guerrillas and 100 families, including 250 children, would leave Tripoli Monday or Tuesday. He said the fighters would leave with their weapons.

Mr. Abdulrahman said 45 "detainees" including some Libyan and Sudanese fighters, would be released by Mr. Arafat.

Ships on their way

Five passenger Greek ships have left Athens for Tripoli for evacuating the Arafat men and their families, Greek harbour sources said Saturday.

The last of the ships, the 3,985-ton Naxos, left at 2.45 a.m. (0045 GMT) after last minute problems over crewing had been resolved.

Greek state television said the ships would assemble at Larnaca, Cyprus, on Sunday afternoon and make the final voyage to Tripoli accompanied by French warships. The evacuation of the 4,000 men would start early Monday.

Informed sources in Paris said France would provide warships to escort the boats to Tunisia, where two would go, and to North Yemen, the destination of the other three.

Beirut airport stays open despite truce violations

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Beirut airport stayed open Saturday for the second straight day despite violations of a new ceasefire on the nearby mountain front separating the Lebanese army from Druze militiamen.

An army spokesman said there was a 15-minute exchange of small and medium arms fire near Qabr Shmoun, a strategic crossroads village at the southern end of the mountain ridge overlooking the airport.

He said the army did not open fire but fired back when shot at.

A military spokesman for the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) said the army shelled Druze villages behind the ridge for much of Friday night and Saturday morning. The Druze did not respond, out of respect for the ceasefire, he added.

The new truce, a revival of one arranged last Sept. 25, was announced in Damascus Friday by the Lebanese opposition "National Salvation Front," which billed it as firm and permanent and as a step towards a second round of national reconciliation talks.

The airport, closed by fighting since Nov. 30, reopened soon after the news of the ceasefire came through.

Lebanese officials said the reconciliation talks could resume in Switzerland as early as next week. The first round adjourned in

Geneva last month after the eight factional leaders asked President Amin Gemayel to make a foreign tour in search of a new formula for the withdrawal of Israeli and Syrian forces from his country.

The present formula, the Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal agreement of last May 17, is opposed by Syria and its Lebanese allies in the "National Salvation Front."

Mr. Gemayel has already visited Paris, Rome, Washington, Riyadh, London, Rabat and Tripoli. In Washington he was told the United States was committed to the May 17 accord, (Gemayel ends visit to U.K., Morocco and Libya, page 2).

His visit to Tripoli Friday was the most surprising, since Lebanon froze relations with Libya last month in protest at the presence of Libyan troops in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

Wazzan explains talks

Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan said Mr. Gemayel went to Libya at the suggestion of King Hassan II of Morocco under his Geneva mandate to seek "the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, including the Libyans."

Talks with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi were important and beneficial and the dialogue on withdrawal of Libyan

troops and other matters would be continued, he said.

Saudi-Lebanese businessman Rafiq Hariri, one of the mediators who secured Friday's ceasefire, arrived in Beirut Saturday and had talks with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salame on stabilising the new truce, official sources said.

Mr. Salame and presidential adviser Wadie Haddad will meet U.S. special envoy Donald Rumsfeld later Saturday for talks on the new truce, official sources said.

Mr. Rumsfeld arrived here after talks with Israeli leaders and a meeting earlier in the week with Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam in Damascus.

As usual, State Department spokesman John Hughes in Washington offered no details on Mr. Rumsfeld's consultations. He has visited a number of other Middle East capitals since leaving Washington last week.

Mr. Hughes noted that the parties to the Lebanese conflict have "agreed to establish a consolidated ceasefire, although there have been some violations today."

"We urge the parties to respect the ceasefire to end the violence that has cost many innocent civilian lives and caused extensive property damage," Mr. Hughes said.

Egyptian diplomats in Israel threatened

CAIRO (R) — The Israeli government had promised to increase security for the Egyptian embassy and diplomats in Tel Aviv following reports of threats against the lives and property of mission members, Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources said Saturday.

The weekly October magazine reported that Egyptian diplomats in Israel had received anonymous letters and telephone calls threatening their lives and property.

The Foreign Ministry sources told Reuters the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministries were in contact and the Israeli government had promised to step up security precautions around the embassy and its staff.

"The Egyptian embassy in Israel and its diplomatic mission were recently a target of several

attacks and Israel has pledged to tighten security precautions on Egyptian property and staff in Tel Aviv," the sources said.

They declined to elaborate on the nature of these attacks.

Egypt is the only Arab country to have diplomatic relations with Israel established as part of their 1979 treaty.

Egypt withdrew its ambassador from Israel in September last year after the massacre of Palestinians in two Beirut refugee camps following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Relations between the two countries since then have been described by Foreign Ministry officials here as lukewarm.

An Israeli official confirmed police had been asked to tighten security for Egyptian diplomats

after several had their cars broken into.

"Unfortunately, Tel Aviv has its crime problem like any big city and diplomats suffer as much as anyone else," the official said.

The break-ins did not seem to have been politically motivated, he said. He knew of no incident in which an Egyptian diplomat's life was threatened.

Meanwhile Israel's consulate in the Egyptian city of Alexandria narrowly escaped damage Thursday when an attacker hurled a fire bomb at a car parked before the building, according to Israeli officials.

The fire bomb exploded on the ground without causing harm and the attacker was apprehended, they said.

78 dead in Madrid disco fire

MADRID (R) — Seventy-eight young people were killed and about 30 injured Saturday when hundreds of teenagers were trapped in a blazing basement discotheque, police said.

Survivors told reporters one main entrance to the Alcala 20 disco was barred by a metal grill and two back exits were closed when fire swept through the converted music hall shortly before the 5.30 a.m. closing time.

Most of the victims were suffocated by thick smoke which billowed through the four floors of the discotheque as about 600 terrified teenagers stampeded up narrow staircases.

Survivors said they saw a small flash of light before the plastic curtains of a stage caught fire and fell onto dancing couples who fled screaming in search of an exit.

Police said a short circuit could have caused the blaze.

"People were flying in there and you couldn't see more than a metre," one youngster said.

"We had to beat our way out with our fists because people were panicking and couldn't control themselves," another survivor said. Panic increased when all the lights went out.

The discotheque staff had already announced closing time when smoke was seen behind the stage curtains. Survivors said some dancers thought it was part of the show and shouted "open the curtains."

When the crowd saw waiters grab fire extinguishers, panic started and people surged towards the staircases. Survivors said some fire extinguishers were half empty.

"People were pushing like mad in the rush to get out. Someone gave me a shove and I stumbled. I thought I was going to fall and I reached for something to hold on to, but there was no handrail or anything. I don't know how I got out of there," Jose Pacio, a 22-year-old student, told reporters.

Part of the crowd rushed up to the lobby shared by the disco and a theatre but an iron grill blocked their way. Witnesses said one person was killed after being impaled on the bars as the grill buckled under the weight of bodies.

Several survivors said at least two of the disco's six emergency doors were locked. Some managed to scramble through a shaft of the air conditioning system.



Petra photo

PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY MARKED: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday addresses a meeting in Amman commemorating the birthday anniversary of the Prophet Mohammed. The Regent, (photo below) accompanied by Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Tarawneh (in Prince Hassan's left) Awqaf Minister Kamel Al Sharif (to Prince Hassan's right), National Consultative Council Speaker Suleiman Arar, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb, Information Minister Adnan Abu Odeh (second row, second from right), listens to a speech during the meeting. Full story on page 3



Petra photo

Blast near London Harrods kills nine

LONDON (R) — A bomb at Harrods department store Saturday killed at least nine people, including four police officers, police said.

Deputy Commissioner David Powis said he had no doubt that the bombing was the work of the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Three of the dead were policemen and one was a policeman's wife, he told reporters.

Scotland Yard said the bomb went off in a car in Hans Crescent, beside Harrods. It had received a warning of a bomb and police were approaching the car when it blew up.

A wave of bomb alerts followed throughout central London, which is crowded with Christmas shoppers on one of the busiest days of the year.

Buildings around Harrods were evacuated, as were stores in Oxford Street, about two kilometres from Harrods. An area near Chelsea army barracks were also cleared.

A spokesman for the London ambulance service said there were 63 dead and injured according to preliminary casualty figures.

Most were taken to a hospital nearby where an administrator said three of the injured had very serious multiple injuries and were sent for immediate surgery.

The IRA and its maverick offshoot, the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA), have struck on the British mainland several times since guerrilla violence erupted in Northern Ireland 14 years ago.

Last year 11 soldiers on ceremonial duties were killed by two

bombs in central London. The worst attack was in 1974, when 21 people were killed by a wave of bombings in Birmingham.

Police issued a telephone number for public inquiries about casualties, and the switchboard was immediately inundated with calls.

Saturday's blast followed a week of police warnings that Irish republican guerrillas were planning a Christmas bomb campaign.

A week ago a bomb went off at an army barracks in southeast London and on Tuesday police blew up a bomb in another shopping district.

Police cleared the area and evacuated Harrods and nearby buildings immediately after the blast. Officers on the spot said a search was being carried out for further bombs.

Firemen and soldiers could be seen helping the police.

Reuter correspondent Michael Battye was in the area when the bomb went off.

"There was a colossal explosion, a huge ball of fire and then a pall of dirty black smoke," he said.

"Glass rained down like a hailstorm. People scattered in panic, screaming. There were hundreds and hundreds of people in the street."

The fire brigade said 10 per cent of the huge store had been damaged by the blast.

The explosion was heard several kilometres away and soon afterwards other stores in the city were evacuated after reports of further bombs.

Hussein meets Thatcher

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein held talks Friday evening with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on current Middle East developments and issues of mutual concern, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, reported from London.

King Hussein flew to London Friday from Strasbourg on a private visit to the United Kingdom.

While in Strasbourg, the King addressed the European Parliament on Thursday on the latest developments in the Middle East and obstacles hindering the establishment of peace in the region.

A spokesman for Mrs. Thatcher said King Hussein's talks with the British premier lasted 70 minutes but declined to give any details.

Regent sends good wishes to King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday sent a cable of good wishes to His Majesty King Hussein on the anniversary of Prophet Mohammed's birthday.

In his cable, Prince Hassan wished the King, who is in London now, success in the leadership of the nation and defending its rights.

"Despite the present darkness and the gloomy outlook of the general situation in the region yet we still have hope in God and in faith in the wisdom of King Hussein to lead the nation to light and salvation," Prince Hassan said in his cable, according to Petra.

Army Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb also sent a cable of good wishes to King Hussein on his own behalf and on behalf of the Armed Forces.

Abu Jihad to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The deputy commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) forces, Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), was quoted Saturday as saying that he intends to come to Jordan as soon as he leaves Tripoli where he is now under siege by Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels.

The Arabic-language weekly Al Majallah, published in London, quoted Abu Jihad as saying that his visit to Jordan will be for pursuing the work of the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee for the support the steadfastness of the Arab population in the occupied territories.

"The Palestine revolution will remain true to its principles and will be committed to the resolutions passed by the Palestine National Council."

Meanwhile, Al Rai newspaper reported in Amman Saturday that the first official contact for a long time between the PLO and the British government will take place very soon. It said that Khaled Al Hassan, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's adviser on international affairs, will be meeting in London with British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe.

Gandhi says Pakistan preparing for war

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said Saturday neighbouring Pakistan was preparing for war, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

Quoted Mrs. Gandhi as saying Pakistan's intentions were clear from information available to her, but she said it was difficult to predict if there was any threat to India.

The two nations have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947, twice over disputed territory in India's northern state of Jammu and Kashmir and once over the creation of Bangladesh out of the former East Pakistan in 1971.

She told reporters after conferring degrees at Calcutta's Shantiniketan University that the

dangers of war were hovering over all the world.

"And we are part of the world," she added.

Indian Defence Minister Ramaswami Venkataraman said last week in parliament India might acquire sophisticated equipment from the Soviet Union and Western Europe to meet any threat from Pakistan.

He said Pakistan was acquiring the ability to enrich and reprocess uranium and had obtained equipment from several countries for the manufacture of nuclear arms.

Relations between India and Pakistan, once amicable, soured further recently after Pakistan acquired Harpoon missiles from the United States and Mrs. Gandhi expressed concern over an

opposition-backed campaign for Restoration of Democracy in Pakistan.

India's complaints about its neighbour's arms acquisitions began in 1977 when the U.S. decided to supply F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan.

New Delhi has also accused an unnamed neighbour of giving military aid to extremists in the troubled northern state of Punjab where militant Sikhs are campaigning for religious concessions and greater political autonomy.

Pakistan, in turn, has accused India of interfering in its affairs. Pakistani Foreign Minister Shahabzada Yaqub Khan said in Islamabad early last month India was encouraging a domestic anti-government campaign.

MIDDLE EAST

Denktash says U.N. peace force can stay

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash said here Saturday that a United Nations Peace Keeping Force on Cyprus can continue to operate although he has refused to accept the terms of its mandate.

But the biggest political party in the self-proclaimed Turkish-Cypriot Republic called for the immediate withdrawal of the force from the new state.

An extraordinary meeting of the National Unity Party, which was founded by Denktash though he now takes little part in it, unanimously demanded the immediate removal of the 650 U.N. troops based in the northern, Turkish-occupied sector.

The fledgling republic, proclaimed last month but recognised only by mainland Turkey, rejected

the renewal of the 2,350-strong force's mandate by the Security Council earlier this week.

It objected to a reference to the Greek-Cypriot government as the government of the whole island, as it is internationally recognised.

Mr. Denktash told reporters: "There is no Cyprus government as such... we have informed the U.N. secretary-general that we had to take this action (rejection of the mandate) to safeguard our constitutional and moral rights."

Mr. Denktash said the force, known as UNFICYP, "can con-

tinue its operations in Cyprus and if need be, it will be possible to conclude a bilateral agreement with us, for the future."

UNFICYP was sent to Cyprus in 1964 following bitter conflict between the ethnic Greek majority and Turkish minority on the island the previous year.

Its mandate has been renewed every six months since, but last week was the first time either side had opposed it, although the Turkish Cypriots have in the past objected to the reference to "the Cyprus government".

The U.N. secretary-general's acting special representative in Cyprus, James Holger, told reporters in the northern sector Saturday he did not anticipate the withdrawal of U.N. troops from the Turkish-Cypriot sector.

He was due to return to New York for consultations Saturday.



Israel troops in a jeep escort trucks carrying right-wing Lebanese Falangist militiamen as they leave the besieged Shouf mountain town of Deir Al Qamar. The town has been besieged by leftist Druze militiamen for the last three months (A.P. wirephoto)

Brazil to sell Egypt 120 military training planes

SAO PAULO (R) — Brazil's state-owned aviation company, EMBRAER, said Friday it had signed a \$180 million contract to supply Egypt with 120 Tucano T-27 military training planes.

A company spokesman said the first batch of 12 planes would be delivered in the second half of 1984.

The remaining 108 planes would be supplied in kit-form to be assembled by the Egyptian state-owned Arab Organisation for Industrialisation. Delivery of

these planes would be spread over four years beginning in 1985, he added.

The Tucano, a two-seater turbo-prop military trainer, can be adapted as a ground fighter capable of carrying up to 1,300 kilograms of arms, according to the spokesman.

He said the Egyptian deal was the first foreign sale for the Tucano, and the biggest single contract signed in the company's 14-year history.

Turkey signs \$4.5b deal for 160 U.S. warplanes

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has sent a letter of acceptance to Washington for a \$4.5 billion deal to buy and co-manufacture 160 American F-16 jet fighters from General Dynamics Corporation over the next 10 years. Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said.

The letter, confirming the biggest foreign military deal ever undertaken by Turkey, was signed and sent last week before Mr. Ozal's newly elected government took office, he told reporters.

A statement by new Defence Minister Zeki Yavuzturk said his predecessor Haluk Bayulken, defence minister throughout three years of military rule which ended this month, signed the letter on Dec. 9 and sent it to the U.S. government.

Under the deal, Turkey will pay \$1 billion of the cost from the national budget, the rest coming from the U.S. in aid, credits and offset-trade agreements, officials said.

Former air force commander Tahsin Sahinkaya, a member of the military junta, has said the first F-16s due to be assembled and co-manufactured by the Turkish aviation company, Turk Ucak Sanayi A.S. (TUSAS) will be delivered by early 1987.

The new planes will eventually replace the Turkish air force's current stock of F-4 "Phantoms", F-100s, F-104s and F-5As.

The deal fulfills a long-standing ambition of the Turkish military to update its air force and establish its own aircraft manufacturing capability.

But it has been criticised by press, and political commentators as being too ambitious, too expensive and tying Ankara too closely to the United States.

The deal was finalised before Mr. Ozal took office early this week, and sources in his conservative Motherland Party said he was concerned that such a big deal had been struck before his government had a chance to consider it.

Mr. Ozal told reporters: "If they (the outgoing government) left it up to us, we would sit down and study the matter."

Informed sources said that, under the contract with General Dynamics, engine maker Pratt and Whitney and United Technologies, the U.S. firms would market \$1 billion worth of Turkish exports over the next 10 years through their associates.

Papandreou arrives in Romania

VIENNA (R) — Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou arrived in Bucharest for talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu expected to focus on proposals to turn the Balkan region into a nuclear-weapons free zone.

Mr. Papandreou, who is due to spend the weekend in Bucharest, was met at the airport by Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalu, the official Agerpres news agency reported.

The concept of keeping nuclear weapons out of the Balkan countries was endorsed by Mr. Papandreou's socialist government on coming to power two years ago.

Israel cannot guarantee safety of Shouf besieged

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Saturday Israel cannot guarantee that Christians remaining in the Lebanese Shouf town of Deir Al Qamar will be safe from Druze attacks.

The Israeli army has been helping to evacuate thousands of Lebanese Christian civilians and Falangist fighters who have been besieged by Druze militiamen for three months.

"We hope the evacuation contributed to improving relations between the Druze and the Christians and I hope there will be no Druze military action against Deir Al Qamar," Mr. Arens said in a radio interview.

But when asked whether Israel could guarantee the safety of thousands of Christians remaining in the town, Mr. Arens answered: "We are not in the business of giving guarantees concerning other forces."

Some 2,000 Christian Falangist militiamen were taken in buses from the town last week. About 4,500 civilians, many of them refugees from other Shouf mountain towns controlled by the Druze, are expected to leave Deir Al Qamar by Christmas.

Stopping PLO pullout

On Friday Mr. Arens said Israel can prevent the Palestinian evacuation from Tripoli and will reconsider its attitude to the pullout only if PLO leader Yasser Arafat promises to abandon "terrorism."

In an interview on Israeli Radio, Mr. Arens said: "There's no doubt we can prevent the evacuation of Mr. Arafat and his men from Tripoli."

"In order for us to reconsider our attitude, the countries willing to help Mr. Arafat must make their aid conditional on an undertaking by the PLO leader and his men to lay down their arms and declare they will abandon terrorism."

Greek ships procured by the Athens government on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are reported to have left for Tripoli to pick up Mr. Arafat and his 4,000 men. Israel has so far not given any assurances that it will allow their safe passage.

According to reports from Lebanon, the besieged PLO men are to be evacuated under U.N. and West European protection early next week.

MNF could leave Beirut if Lebanese army were ready

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's national security adviser said Friday that once the Lebanese army proves it can protect its country, U.S. and other multinational troops could be withdrawn within six months.

"It is not unreasonable to project that if political conditions for withdrawal took place (and) that the security capability could keep up, the (withdrawal) process could

take place within six months time," U.S. National Security Affairs adviser Robert McFarlane told foreign reporters.

Mr. McFarlane said that before troops in the Multinational Force could be withdrawn, the Lebanese army had to demonstrate that it could establish a stable security environment in the areas to be evacuated by the peacekeepers.

Turkey's new prime minister starts modernising cumbersome bureaucracy

ANKARA (R) — Within days of taking office, Turkey's new Prime Minister Turgut Ozal has made good one of his main election promises by launching a massive shake-up of Turkey's lumbering bureaucracy.

His cabinet took office on Tuesday, and a 430-page decree was promptly published in the government gazette enacting what newspapers have called the biggest revision of the country's bureaucracy for decades.

The major effect of the decree is to cut the number of ministries from 20 to 14 and create seven state ministers as a kind of super-cabinet to oversee vital government functions.

The main intention, pledged by Mr. Ozal's conservative Motherland Party which won a clear majority in last month's general elections, is to improve efficiency all round and cut down bribery, something the outgoing military government admitted it had not

been able to eliminate.

Mr. Ozal has backing for the shake-up from President Kenan Evren, who led the 1980 military coup.

Gen. Evren ensured the new government, which replaced military rule, would have the power to issue decrees for six months so the Motherland Party could enact its plan without parliamentary debate.

"The bureaucracy here is known as 'bugun giyarin gel' (go away today, come back tomorrow)," said one Turkish journalist. "That's the attitude Ozal is attacking."

One of the top priorities was to streamline the finance and economic administration to help Mr. Ozal, a former minister in charge of the economy, curb inflation, cut state intervention and boost exports.

His deputy, Kaya Erdem, a former finance minister, has been appointed state minister with res-

ponsibility for a new under-secretariatship encompassing all foreign trade and treasury affairs, as well as the state planning office and then key state-owned agriculture bank.

The finance ministry, meanwhile, has been merged with the customs and monopolies ministry but loses a large chunk of treasury and foreign trade responsibilities.

Economic functions of the foreign ministry have also been moved to Mr. Erdem's new under-secretariatship.

The former trade ministry has been combined with the former industry and technology ministry to make one ministry of trade and industry. The old trade ministry's responsibilities for exports, imports and foreign agreements have also been removed.

Four other new single ministries have taken over agricultural, rural, public services, housing, labour, social security, education and sports affairs.

Shi'ite chief meets French ambassador to Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — The leader of Lebanon's Shi'ite "Amal" movement said he had held talks with French ambassador Fernand Wibaux in their first meeting since French jets bombed Shi'ite militants in eastern Lebanon last month.

Amal leader Nabih Berri, whose movement opposes the government of President Amin Gemayel and has several thousand militiamen in Beirut, said the talks were "completely frank."

French officials were not available for comment on the meeting and it was not known at whose request it was held.

Mr. Berri called it "the first of its kind" and said: "Perhaps it will help change French policy towards Amal."

U.S. protests Iran's new 'siege' stamp

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has filed a protest against Iran's issuance of a postage stamp commemorating the fourth anniversary of the taking of American hostages at the U.S. embassy in Tehran on Nov. 4, 1979.

The State Department said it protested to the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and encouraged the public to refuse to accept mail bearing the stamp.

"The United States strongly protests the issuance by Iran of this stamp which celebrates an act of terrorism," the State Department said.

Gemayel ends visits to U.K., Morocco, Libya

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel returned home Saturday after visiting Britain, Morocco and Libya to seek support for his government and a formula for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon.

He made no comment to the press on the results of his trip and went straight to the presidential palace in Baabda outside the capital.

But the Libyan news agency JANA reported that Mr. Gemayel and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi agreed in Tripoli on the need to evict foreign forces from Lebanon.

The agency, monitored in Beirut Friday, said the two leaders agreed to co-operate and consult on resolving the Lebanese crisis.

State-run Beirut Radio quoted informed sources as saying the talks lasted five hours and were "very positive".

The two leaders spoke with "complete frankness" and agreed to continue the dialogue before



Amin Gemayel

Mr. Gemayel left Tripoli.

Mr. Gemayel's unexpected meeting with Col. Qadhafi, one of his harshest Arab critics, followed a visit to Rabat where he held two-hours of talks with King Hassan earlier Friday.

Mr. Gemayel's government last month said it had ordered Libya's top diplomat in Lebanon to leave the country.

Turkish forces capture 24 outlaws after clash

ANKARA (R) — Twenty-four "outlaws" were seized and one was killed in clashes with security forces last month in a remote south-eastern Turkish village largely inhabited by ethnic Kurds, military officials revealed Saturday.

The officials did not identify the group which clashed with security forces on Nov. 16 in Yenidogan, Siirt Province, but described them as "outlaws who for a long time have been causing trouble to the inhabitants of the area."

The gang opened fire at security forces sent to the village after a

tip-off. One gunman was killed and the rest were seized after the shoot out, the military officials said.

The security forces found 46 rifles and ammunition, they added. Although the officials did not identify the group, it was widely assumed here that they were Kurdish rebels.

Turkish security forces launched a large operation against Kurdish rebels in the area last May, crossing into Iraqi territory with the consent of the Baghdad government.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
630, 720, 1413 KHz	630, 720, 1413 KHz
MAIN CHANNEL	6:00 Newsdesk 6:30 The English Air
16:30 Koran	6:45 Financial Review 6:55 Religious
16:40 Cartoons	7:00 World News 7:15 British
17:20 Children's Programmes	Press Review 7:15 Let's go 7:30
18:30 Survival	Flanders and Swann 7:45 Letter from
19:00 Local Programme	America 7:50 Newsdesk 8:30 Jazz for
19:30 Health and Life Programme	the Asking 8:40 World News 8:50
20:00 News in Arabic	World News 9:00 News 9:05
20:30 Arabic Variety Programme	News about Britain 9:15 From Our
21:30 Arabic Series	Own Correspondent 9:30 A Closer
22:15 News Summary	Look 9:50 Recording of the Week
FOREIGN CHANNEL	10:00 Commentary 10:05 Religious
18:00 French Programme	10:15 The Pleasures Yours 11:00 World
19:00 News in French	News 11:00 British Press Review 11:15
19:30 News in Hebrew	Science in Action 11:45 Sports Review
20:00 News in Arabic	12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30
20:30 Yes Minister: The Economy	Religious Service 13:00 World News
21:00 Towards 2000	13:00 News about Britain 13:15 Letter
21:10 The Citadel	from America 13:30 Baker's Half
22:00 News in English	Dozen 14:00 Play of the Week 15:00
22:15 Best Seller: Thom Birds - Ep-	World News 15:00 Commentary 15:15
sode 6	Cool Books 15:30 The Painter of Signs
RADIO JORDAN	15:45 The Saudi Jones Request Show
855 KHz AM & 94 MHz FM	16:30 The Ulster Defence Regiment
& partly on 9300 KHz SW	17:00 Radio Newsnet 17:15 Concert
	Hall 18:00 World News 18:05
	Commentary 18:15 From our Own
	Correspondent 18:30 World News 18:35
	Financial Review 18:45 Letter from
	America 19:00 World News 19:05
	Meridian 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports
	Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30
	Quote, Unquote 21:00 Piped Piper 21:15
	The Tightrump Men 22:00 World News
	22:00 Commentary 22:15 Let's go
	22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 At
	Home With... 23:15 The Pleasures
	Yours 24:00 World News 00:05 Science
	in Action 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports
	Round-up 01:00 World News 01:05
	Commentary 01:15 Letter from Ame-
	rica 01:30 Motive for Murder
	VOICE OF AMERICA
	MW 1260, KHz 7200, 9565, 11740,
	11925 & 15210
	6:00 VOA Morning: News on the
	hour; news summaries; daily business
	report; science and medicine; sports
	reports; VOA editorial and world
	and U.S. opinion roundup; documentary
	analysis; features 17:00 News 17:10
	News Summary 17:30 Special
	English News and Features 18:00
	News 18:10 International Viewpoints
	18:30 Music USA Standards 19:00
	News 19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Special
	English News and Features

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	FILM
EXHIBITION	"L'Assassinat du Pere Noel" subtitled
Photographs by James Goldworthy-Higgs at the Alia Art Gallery.	in Arabic at the French Cultural Centre
CONCERT	at 7:30 p.m.
The Buds Band and Malik Madi perform at the Royal Cultural Centre studio theatre at 5:00 p.m.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267	
American Centre Tel. 44371	
British Council Tel. 361478	
French Cultural Centre Tel. 37009	
Geopie Institute Tel. 41993	
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 4203	
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 39777	
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 665195	
Haya Arts Centre Tel. 667181	
Husseini Youth City Tel. 41793	
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 66451	
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 36111	
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquity of Jordan. Jabal Al Qaf'a (Ciadad Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century	
orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luweibde. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. (3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.	
Mary's Memorial Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.	
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.	
SERVICE CLUBS	
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel. 1:30 p.m.	
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel. 1:30 p.m.	
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman, tel. 24590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luweibde, 37440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussein, 661757.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abdali, 23541.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman, 41559.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 71331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 72561.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, 71751.	
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at St. Ephraim Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.	
PRAYER TIMES	
05:03 Fajr	
06:31 Sunrise	
11:32 Dhuhr	
14:17 Asr	
16:33 Maghrib	
18:01 Isha	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53177, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:30	Cairo (EA)
08:00	Aqaba (RJ)
09:15	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30	Damascus (RJ)
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
09:45	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	Cairo (RJ)
10:40	Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
14:05	Cairo (EA)
14:30	Tripoli, Larnaca (LN)
14:40	Kuwait (KAC)
15:00	Jeddah (SV)
15:30	Cairo (RJ)
15:30	Baghdad (IA)
17:00	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
17:15	New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:35	London, Paris (RJ)
18:10	Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:40	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
18:40	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:50	Zurich, Damascus (SR)
20:00	Cairo (EA)
20:30	Athens (OA)
20:40	London (BA)
22:00	Damascus (RJ)
00:30	Cairo (RJ)
00:45	Baghdad (RJ)
01:05	Cairo (EA)

DEPARTURES

05:45	Cairo (RJ)
06:30	Beirut (RJ)
06:40	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00	Agaba (RJ)
07:40	Damascus, Paris (AF)
07:40	Cairo (EA)
07:45	Beirut (MEA)
07:50	Beirut (MEA)
08:25	Damascus, Rome (Alitalia)
11:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30	Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:10	Dhahran, Dhahran (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (EA)
15:30	Larnaca, Tripoli (LN)
15:40	Kuwait (KAC)
16:30	Baghdad (IA)
16:30	Jeddah (SV)
19:30	Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
19:40	Jeddah (RJ)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in JLD

Belgian franc	66.4 / 66.8
Dutch guilder	120.4 / 121.1
Egyptian pound	325 / 329.5
French franc	44.1 / 44.4
Iraqi dinar	368.3 / 376.6
Italian lire (for 100)	22.3 / 22.5
Japanese yen (for 100)	158.7 / 159.7
Kuwait dinar	127.4 / 127.6
Lebanese lira	68.6 / 69.8
Omani rial	108.0 / 108.6
Qatari riyal	102.3 / 102.8
Saudi riyal	107.1 / 107.5
Swedish crown	46 / 46.3
Swiss franc	168.6 / 169.6
Syrian lira	57 / 58.3
UAE dirham	101.7 / 101.8
U.K. sterling pound	529.3 / 532.5
U.S. dollar	37.9 / 37.5
W. German mark	134.9 / 135.7

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with northwesterly moderate winds. A slight increase in temperature is expected. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low-high temperature in deg. C

Amman	12 / 25
Aqaba	10 / 23
Deserts	5 / 16
Jordan Valley	11 / 22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 39 per cent.

Mufti outlines new pan-Arab policy

Council to adopt regional social development plan

By Abdullah Nsour
Petra

AMMAN — Minister of Social Development I'm Al Mufti said here Saturday that the Arab Social Affairs Ministerial Council has passed several recommendations and taken a number of decisions at its recent meeting in Tunis aimed at improving the general social conditions in the Arab World.

Mrs. Mufti, who attended the meeting which ended earlier this week, said the ministers agreed to draw up a pan-Arab programme for comprehensive social development in the Arab World.

This strategy is designed to develop the Arab work force, improve the productivity of all sectors of the society and provide the required education and training in order to achieve this goal, the minister said.

She added that such a strategy takes into consideration the development of social life in the rural regions through raising the productivity of the societies there.

Such development is bound to help in achieving food security for the Arab World, enhancing the sense of belonging to the nation and land and increasing the rural people's self confidence, Mrs. Mufti added.

"This requires a revision of national laws and regulations in a manner that ensures positive participation of rural communities in the country's economic and social life," she said.

Child care

The ministerial council has emphasised the need to provide a suitable and healthy atmosphere for the care of children, and this requires inter-Arab cooperation, the minister said.

For this reason, she added, the council envisages the establishment of a specialised Arab agency for the welfare of children capable of coordinating Arab policy in this respect and drawing up plans to achieve this end.

Also envisaged is the establishment of a special fund for the welfare and development of children in the Arab World, she said, adding that this will finance projects designed to manufacture

children's food, medicine and clothes as well as cultural programmes, sporting activities and the publishing of books, magazines for children in the Arab World, Mrs. Mufti explained.

The council has also decided to entrust the Arab League general secretariat with the drawing up of plans and programmes to develop the workforce in the Arab World, according to the minister.

She said that these would include social and cultural programmes that can be put together in cooperation with Arab Broadcasting Union.

Old people

On care for the aged, the minister said that the council decided to call Arab member states to set up national committees that would handle the issue of old people while the general secretariat would follow up this project with each country and coordinate their work.

On the possibility of launching technical cooperation among Arab states in the field of social work, the minister said that the council has decided to call all member states to cooperate in exchanging technical assistance in implementing social work projects.

It has also decided, she said, to call on the forthcoming Arab Labour Organisation conference to ask Arab states to contribute one day's wages in support of projects that cater for the basic needs of Palestinian children.



I'm Al Mufti

Indian boy honoured for essay on Petra

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 13-year-old has won honours in India for writing about his impressions of the ancient city of Petra.

Rupesh Santosh, son of the Indian ambassador in Jordan, visited Jordan during his 1983 summer vacation and toured Petra among other places of interest in the country.

Upon his return to India, where he is a student at the Mayo College, he wrote an article entitled "A Visit to Petra." This article was adjudged the best in his class and was awarded a prize during a

special ceremony late November.

The award was presented to Rupesh by the deputy prime minister and defence minister of the Sultanate of Oman, Fahar Ibn Tamoo, who himself was a student of the Mayo College.

"A Visit to Petra" was adjudged the best because "it is well written and well documented," the judges said. "It succeeds in evoking the charm and grandeur of this historically significant evidence of human civilisation tucked away in the hills of Jordan," they added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan to attend labour board talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) board of directors meeting scheduled to start in Dubai on Dec. 24. During the five-days of meetings, the board will discuss the Arab labour office plan for 1985, board reports on Arab labour educational institutes and the Arab Centre for Social Insurance in addition to the Arab Employment Foundation. Also on the agenda are arrangements for the Arab labour conference scheduled to be held in Baghdad next March.

Five die in road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Five people were killed and 87 injured in a total of 147 road accidents which occurred in the country last week. Out of this figure, 104 accidents occurred in Amman where one person was killed and 38 were injured while the rest occurred in the suburbs, Balqa, Zarqa, Irbid, Karak, Ma'an, Aqaba and the Badiya.

IDB loans top 92 in current year

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has this year approved 92 loans with a total value of JD 8,282,000, an IDB spokesman announced. Among these 52 loans, totalling JD 4,750,000, were used to finance fixed asset purchases and 40 loans totalling 3,532,000 to finance the buying of primary materials.

Suheimat okays aviation monument

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat has decided to set up a commemorative monument at the entrance to the Queen Alia International Airport (QALIA). The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will select an appropriate design inspired by the world of aviation before work on constructing the monument starts, a CAA spokesman said.



Islamic Chief Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Al Qattan, Saturday delivers a speech at the Palace of Culture here during celebrations of the birthday of Prophet Mohammad (Petra photo).

Government keen to keep economy's momentum

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — World recession, a decline in Arab aid and a deficiency of local resources were three factors that bore their signature on Jordan's 1984 austerity budget but, judging from Prime Minister Mudar Badran's speech last Sunday, the Jordanian government is determined not to let the cuts in expenditure affect the rate of economic activity in the country.

In his speech to the National Consultative Council (NCC) last week, Mr. Badran stressed that the government will work to create the conditions which will encourage local and foreign investment in Jordan.

Yet economic analysts view the introduction of an austerity budget, that actually constitutes a JD 5 million decrease on this year's JD 775.37 million budget, as an indicator of the slowdown in the economy. Fahed Al Fanek, a respected Jordanian economist, said that Jordan has been developing at a rapid pace and that it is time for a slowdown in order to curtail the effects of the world recession and the fall in Arab aid and to consolidate the economic achievements realised so far.

Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, under-secretary at the Ministry of Labour, in an article published in the Jordan Times on Dec. 5, expressed the view that "since Jordan is going through economic slowdown period, its fiscal policy should be expansionary. Hence, he suggested, the government should make the economy more liquid by deficit budgeting.

A similar proposal was voiced by the NCC Financial and Administrative Committee which urged the government to create an atmosphere which encourages investment and rewards producers.

Council member Faisal Kanaan called for more cooperation



Mudar Badran

between the private and public sectors. During the budget debate last Sunday the NCC members expressed an understanding of the conditions that contributed to the shaping of next year's austerity budget.

Mr. Mamdouh Abu Hassan, however, noted that, despite the fact that next year's budget does not reflect an increase on this year's budget, it does not necessarily imply a curbing of developmental activity.

He explained that there are development projects that are on the verge of completion and which will soon be productive, the required investment in which has been made in previous budgets. A pruned budget, he added, does not mean no new productive ventures coming on top in 1984.

The cuts in expenditure, although trimming 10 per cent from ministry's spending, will mainly reflect on developmental projects in the 1981-1985 Five-Year Plan.

But Sami Gamro, director of the Budget Department, told the Jordan Times that these cuts will not have a direct impact during 1984.

"The cuts will of course expand the period of implementation for some projects which were not scheduled to be completed or to bear fruits next year," he said.

The 1984 austerity budget, however, has had a direct effect on the "people's army".

Although the 1984 budget allocates JD 204.627 million for defence and security for one-third of the budget, it has stopped short of allocating funds for the foundation of the people's army due to the decline in Arab aid.

Arab aid for 1984 is expected to reach JD 183 million as compared to this year's JD 215 million.

The failure of several Arab countries to fulfil their commitment to Jordan as a frontline state has had yet another serious effect on Jordan's economy.

Mr. Badran explained to NCC members last week that Jordan is bound to honour armaments contracts that need to be repaid, thus increasing the country's financial obligations.

The fulfilment of Jordan's financial liabilities was outlined as a major objective of the 1984 budget. Thus curbing expenditures, as a main characteristic of next year's budget, will reduce the financial burden caused by loans and endorsed by the Jordanian government.

Most of Jordan's loans, as Mr. Badran revealed last week, are soft loans granted by Arab and Islamic funds.

He added that a large percentage of Jordan's loans were granted by foreign and international banks and funds at low interest rates.

Mr. Badran also said that there are some commercial loans designed for commercial projects, but that these will repay the loans from their revenue once they start operating.

The prime minister assured the council that Jordan still enjoys the confidence of international financiers.

But Mr. Fanek warned against complacency saying that Jordan should not regard itself as being immune from debt repayment problems in the future if the King

Celebrations mark anniversary of Prophet's birth
Hassan urges rediscovery of identity through IslamBy Salameh B. Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, religious celebrations were held here Saturday on the occasion of the anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's birth at the Palace of Culture in the Hussein Sports City. During the ceremony, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, delivered a

speech in which he said that the Arab Nation has no other choice but to go back to its cultural roots and character in order to recover its identity through Islam.

Prince Hassan said that the time has come for us to learn the lessons of the past for "we have become vulnerable to other nations threatening our existence while at the same time standing idly by as if such dangers do not concern us."

The Arab Nation has no identity or character without Islam, he said. He went on to say that the religion which preaches the unity of people and places does not deny development or modernisation.

A return to Islam does not mean a return to the past to live in the dark ages, for it is instead a springboard from which we can thrive and so build a strong present and an enlightened and stable future through which this nation can resume its humanitarian message to the world, he added.

In these difficult times we are experiencing, when such great forces of evil threaten our nation, we should not hesitate to use all means available for our self-defence, he concluded.

Later in the ceremony, Sheikh Ibrahim Qattan, the Islamic chief of justice, delivered a speech in which he said that the Arab Nation has passed through successive dark periods which have given it doubts about its own identity, language and character. He therefore called on the Arab World to seek its identity through the Islamic religion.

"This is a celebration, not only to commemorate the birth of the

Prophet but also the birth of Islam," Islam, he said, "is a religion that enlightens people and through its concepts and teachings, gives them the basis for their values and ethics."

"We should liberate ourselves from selfishness and free ourselves from the heavy chains of materialism in order to come out of this crisis," Mr. Qattan said.

"We would not have been in such a situation of crisis and danger if we had followed the teachings of Islam and the messenger of God," he concluded.

Mr. Akram Zu'eiter, president of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs, also delivered a speech in which he expressed his sorrow at the captivity of the holy land by the enemies of Islam, and urged Arabs to unite in order to return the occupied lands.

Mr. Zu'eiter said that the Palestinian cause is an Arab and Islamic cause and that the seizure of Jerusalem by the Jews, who have made it their capital, is the biggest defeat suffered by Muslims throughout their long history.

He also said that the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance aims at attacking the Arabs thus reducing a whole people to just another commodity in the American presidential campaigns.

Kamel Al Sharif, minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, also delivered a speech on the occasion.

Attending the ceremonies were the members of the Upper House of Parliament and the National Consultative Council, Cabinet members, members of the diplomatic corps in Jordan as well as a number of citizens.

Photography association application made

AMMAN (J.T.) — The minister of labour, Jawad Anani, is currently studying an application for the setting up of an association of photography studio owners in Jordan. If registered, this will bring to 30 the number of employers associations registered in the country.

Asfour okays exhibitions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour has given the go-ahead to the organising of three exhibitions in Amman next year. The first exhibition will be devoted to medical services to be held on April 8

while the second exhibition will focus on consumer commodities on April 16. The third will be devoted to the international conference on higher education to be held on May 5.

Prince Ra'd opens art show

AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid opened at the Regency Palace Hotel Saturday an exhibition of artificial flowers by Laila and Nadia Sarhan.

The three-day exhibition includes 97 brass and ceramic works set in wooden frames.

The opening ceremony was attended by Ministry of Agriculture under-secretary, Dr. Saleem Al Lawzi, the mayor of Jubbah and a number of other invited guests.

Zarqa municipal plan aims to upgrade public services over next four years

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

ZARQA — Zarqa municipality has laid down a four-year plan to upgrade public services in the city, according to Dr. Nufan Humud, chairman of the municipality's committee. He said that the plan, to be put into effect early in 1984, will cost JD 9 million.

Speaking in a recent interview, Dr. Humud said that once the plan has been executed the Zarqa River will be completely safe and free of polluted water thus enabling the establishment of public parks.

The area around the Zarqa River will be cleaned after the city's sewer scheme has been completed at a cost of nearly JD 1.96 million, Dr. Humud said.

The municipality plan entails among other things: Building of a bridge over the river in the Zawahreh district of the city at the cost of JD 180,000; another linking the military college with the southern station at the cost of JD 20,000 building pavements in Zarqa at the cost of JD 180,000; constructing 150 warehouses in the industrial zone of the city at the cost of JD 800,000, and establishing a car park at the cost of JD 600,000.

Also included will be the installation of traffic lights at the cost of JD 50,000, in addition to a cultural centre and a library that will cost nearly JD 500,000, Dr. Humud added.

The plan also includes building a modern slaughter house for Zarqa and its suburbs at the cost of JD 1 million, and improvements to the city streets, pedestrian crossings and junctions at the cost of JD 1 million.

Problems

The municipality faces the pro-



The approach road to the town of Zarqa, which lies 28 kilometres to the north-east of Amman, where a JD 9 million four year municipal programme is

develop local services has been put into action (File photo)

blem of people who build on state-owned land without permission and without obtaining licences for such buildings, he said. This causes a lot of organisational troubles for the municipality and creates new headaches," Dr. Humud said.

Also he said, more than 60 per cent of the city's streets are not lit by night because the lamps are burnt out. Later, however, the municipality has made plans for restoring 1,000 of these lamps to provide minimum street lighting at night, Dr. Humud added.

Achievements

We have solved nearly 99 per

cent of the water supply problem in Zarqa, repaired existing sanitation units and are now involved in establishing public utilities in other parts of the city, Dr. Humud said.

Other public services that the municipality has already embarked on include the buying of two vehicles equipped with equipment for spraying insecticides and establishing a cemetery on a 500-dunum land.

The municipality has recently purchased a 15 dunum plot of land at the cost of JD 50,000 for establishing a new car-park, and this will be open to the public early in 1984, Dr. Humud pointed out. A total of JD 400,000 has been

spent on widening streets and beautifying the western and southern approaches to the city, while an overpass has been built on the road to Ruseifa at a cost of JD 172,000, according to Dr. Humud.

He said that a zone for craftsmen, located in the northern suburbs of the city, will be completed soon. This comprises 126 stores built on a 30-dunum land which cost JD 700,000, he explained.

At present the municipality is spending JD 350,000 on a scheme to widen the streets and is expanding the existing market place to include another 25 warehouses, Dr. Humud said.

Charities give valuable support in tackling problems of society

AMMAN (J.T.) — One of the most important indications of the extent of social development in Jordan are the charitable societies which, in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Development, are constantly working towards providing badly needed financial and moral support to those in desperate need of such essentials as a home, education and, at a later stage, a regular job.

In Zarqa, charitable societies such as the Zarqa Society for the Hearing-Impaired tackle social and educational problems facing the handicapped. The society has recently opened a centre for the rehabilitation of the hearing-impaired by training them on jobs within their capabilities and according to their preference. Future plans of the society include opening a training centre to teach craftwork which will give the handicapped a chance to develop and progress within their community.

The Islamic Culture Society, which was established in 1968, also aims at the professional rehabilitation of students, giving financial support to needy families and the spreading of the Islamic culture through seminars and lectures. The society also provides an annual JD 100,000 in aid to 100 poor families besides other material aid to such families.

In Zarqa there is also the Zarqa Kidney Patients Society which is temporarily based in the Ibn Sina Hospital there. This society is currently launching education campaigns on the causes of the kidney diseases, besides providing kidney patients with free surgery and financial support.

The most important activities of the Azraq Women's Society is to emphasise the role of women in

social development, particularly through increasing social awareness in their area and by training women from poor families to develop rural industries like handicrafts and leather works. The objective being to improve the status of women in the community. The society has recently finished building a centre in Juna'a, Zarqa at a cost of JD 750,000.

The Islamic Book Society has also built a centre in Zarqa at Hai Al Hussein which cost JD 700,000. The society has also built an indoor sports stadium equipped with modern sports equipment at the cost of JD 750,000. The society has a public library and holds weekly cultural seminars to which scientists and intellectuals are invited.

The Al al Tayyar Society in Yajouz as part of its activities circulates the Koran as well as other religious and cultural books to citizens from the community. The society is also planning to build a comprehensive centre comprising a mosque, lecture hall, Islamic public library and a centre to teach reading, writing and sewing to orphans. The cost of this centre is expected to reach JD 326,000.

The Mo'ab Society in Zarqa has also its own activities which include helping out poor families and training orphans in various professions and crafts. One of the most important projects achieved by this society is to build a large house to give shelter to orphans during the period of training thus providing them with good living conditions. The Mo'ab Society also supports about 120 poor families through monthly financial aid, besides other local material aids.

Jordan Times

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Button for bias

REPORTS from Washington this week say that the Reagan administration has agreed to give Israel \$1.4 billion in military aid in the next fiscal year, none of which is to be repaid. The New York Times quoted U.S. officials as saying that this move represents a policy shift on the part of the Americans for military assistance worldwide. But who wants to believe them?

The way we look at it here is that this new American assistance assures for Israel the continuation of its schemes concerning the Palestinians under occupation rule.

One of the new schemes which Israel has in store for the Palestinians is the removal of Palestinian refugees from their present camps to new sites in the Jordan Valley selected by the Israeli government. Israel's minister without portfolio Mordechai Ben-Porat calls it a plan for rehabilitating all the refugees in the West Bank and Gaza camps. The plan actually entails moving hundreds of thousands of refugees into what Israel terms "permanent quarters", over the coming five years. The plan was carried to Washington recently by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Moshe Arens, and, according to one report in the Jerusalem Post, the United States is expected to foot the cost, estimated at \$1.5 billion.

The United States which claims it is seeking to improve the living conditions of the Palestinians under occupation is actually helping the Israelis in carrying out their plans aimed at dispersing the Palestinian refugees — further aggravating their ordeal and prolonging their suffering.

How can the United States reconcile its words and its official statements with its deeds? How can the Reagan administration expect from the Arabs to trust its promises, or America's policies in general, when they witness daily instances of total disregard to their feelings, aspirations and legitimate rights?

The most recent manifestation of U.S. hostility towards the Palestinians was expressed in Washington's voting on Dec. 13 against a United Nations General Assembly resolution, among others, calling for all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the United States and the Soviet Union, to participate in an international peace conference on the Middle East.

The assembly also stressed the right of the Palestinian people to establishing their own independent state in Palestine and urged a meeting of U.N. specialised agencies to draw up a programme of economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people. But the United States voted against this constructive resolution which was designed to improve the conditions of the Palestinians. In so doing, the U.S. has again furnished evidence of its inconsistent policies, of a total contradiction in official statements, and supplied another proof of its total bias against the rights of the Arabs and Palestinians, everywhere.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Islam, the way forward

THE ANNIVERSARY of Prophet Mohammad's birthday Saturday ought to act as detonator to the energies in the souls of Muslims and Arabs everywhere. It is an anniversary which calls on Arabs and Muslims to exploit their spiritual and material power and to rise up from oblivion to repel aggression and to deter the oppressors and invaders. The birthday anniversary can act as a means of re-creating the new Arab and Muslim individual who should devote their time and power to free their nation from the domination and hegemony of foreign powers.

Islam was and will continue to be a revolution against tyranny and terrorism, against intimidation and fear and against blackmail and injustice. Islam exists and will continue to exist as a constitution that embodies religion, work and struggle for freedom.

Al Dustour: Reviving a glorious past

OUR CELEBRATION of Prophet Mohammad's birthday should not come in the form of speeches, poetry or holding festivals. It is a far bigger occasion because it represents a lesson which all Muslims can benefit from. This anniversary, which comes every year, carries with it hope for Muslims and Arabs who have long been plagued by the elements of weakness and divisions. Prophet Mohammad came to the world when the situation in the Arabian Peninsula was very similar to the conditions existing in the Arab World at present and the world at large. Then the Arab Nation was divided into small tribes, backward and weak and dispersed all over the land. The Arabian Peninsula served as an arena for rivalry between Persia and the eastern Roman Empire with the Arab tribes divided in their loyalty to both and fighting among themselves to serve both parties.

The Arabs were then living their dark ages, worshipping the stone statues in Mecca. They needed a strong hand to unite them and to save them from destruction. They had the prophet who re-built their will and their nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Three causes of failure

IN HIS address to the European Parliament, King Hussein singled out three reasons for the failure of peace efforts so far. These, he said, were Washington's hesitation in shouldering its responsibilities, Israel's rejection of the international community's unanimously passed resolutions and the lack of Arab unity. Israel's rejection would not have been so effective had the United States not lacked the will to take action towards establishing peace. When Israel invaded Lebanon, the U.S. resorted to the power of veto at the U.N. Security Council to abort all measures against the Zionist state and to protect the crimes and the aggression of the invading forces.

Israel, with its limited resources, could not have carried out the invasion or stayed for so long in Lebanon had the U.S. not been supplying it with all the required implements of aggression and unlimited economic and military assistance. It is a well-known fact that the United States has numerous interests in the Arab World, but what we cannot understand is the fact that it is the Arabs who exert all possible efforts to win the friendship of the United States, and not vice versa. The reality of two points in King Hussein's speech, namely about the lack of U.S. responsibility and Israel's rejection of U.N. resolutions, could never have existed had the Arab countries displayed even a small measure of unity and solidarity.

A year of increasing tension in the Middle East

By Jonathan Wright
 Reuter

BEIRUT — In the Middle East it was the year of the suicide bomber, the militia gunman and the U.S. Marine.

The Lebanese failed to rid themselves of foreign occupiers and the Palestinians moved further than ever from their goal of statehood.

U.S. troops sent to Lebanon to establish peace found themselves at war with hostile militias who saw the Americans as their main enemy in the battle for the country.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's attempts to build a strategy for the PLO on the ruins of last year's war with Israel broke down because of differences between rival factions and with the Syrians.

Palestinians who fought Israelis in Beirut last year, fought each other in Tripoli in 1983.

In the Gulf, a bloody war between Iran and Iraq entered its

fourth year and threatened to spill over into neighbouring states.

Syria recovered from setbacks suffered during last year's Israeli invasion of Lebanon to take on what Washington considered a spoiling role in the Middle East.

The United States increased its military activity in the region and forged a closer alliance with Israel on the grounds of countering alleged Soviet expansionism.

The year was punctuated by a series of bloody bombings, usually carried out by suicidal attackers who won the accolade of martyrdom from numerous Arabs.

Their victims included U.S. Marines, Israeli and French troops and Arab civilians.

This month the bombings spread to Kuwait in what U.S. officials said was an extension of the Gulf war and a warning to the states of the region not to back Iraq against Iran.

The worst bombing was at U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut on Oct. 23 in which 240 people were killed.

The Lebanese factions made an attempt in Geneva during November to solve the differences that had divided them for a decade and were set for a second session at the end of the year. But their talks were overshadowed by continued violence at home.

At the start of 1983 hopes for Middle East peace hinged on U.S.-sponsored moves to tackle the Palestine question and to secure the withdrawal of Syrian and Israeli troops from Lebanon.

A year ago President Reagan expressed optimism that direct negotiations on a comprehensive Middle East peace were "within our reach".

The stage appeared set for a deal involving Jordan and the PLO on a future Palestinian-Jordanian federation. This was seen as a first step towards pushing forward Mr. Reagan's Middle East peace plan launched in September 1982.

Mr. Arafat appeared eager to reach an accord with Jordan but bilateral talks broke down in April

because of pressure from Syrian-backed Palestinian radicals and other factors.

Despite this setback to U.S. peace efforts, Washington thought it had scored a diplomatic breakthrough the following month with the signing of an agreement between Israel and Lebanon for the withdrawal of Israeli troops.

The agreement foundered on Syria's refusal to give a similar pledge that it would pull out its forces in the centre and north of the country.

In September, Israel withdrew from the Aley and Shouf mountains in central Lebanon but continued to occupy the south behind a new "security line".

The Lebanese army, trained and re-equipped by the United States and with moral support from Western troops in Beirut, faced its hardest test in the factional war that followed.

Syrian-backed National Patriotic swept through the areas Israel had evacuated. When they

came close to breaking through army defences around the capital itself, U.S. forces intervened to help halt the advance.

The Lebanon crisis brought Syria into confrontation with U.S. and to a lesser extent French forces based in Beirut.

U.S. and French planes raided positions in Syrian-held Lebanese territory and the Americans lost two aircraft to Syrian air defences in one attack.

The United States used its warships to attack the Syrians and their Lebanese allies during the conflict, although Washington maintained the use of force at a limited scale.

Concern was expressed in Britain and Italy, which also had men serving in the 5,800-strong Multi-National Force in Lebanon, over the increasingly direct U.S. military involvement.

Americans also began to question U.S. policy and Mr. Reagan's congressional critics said he seemed to have no clear strategy for extracting the almost 2,000

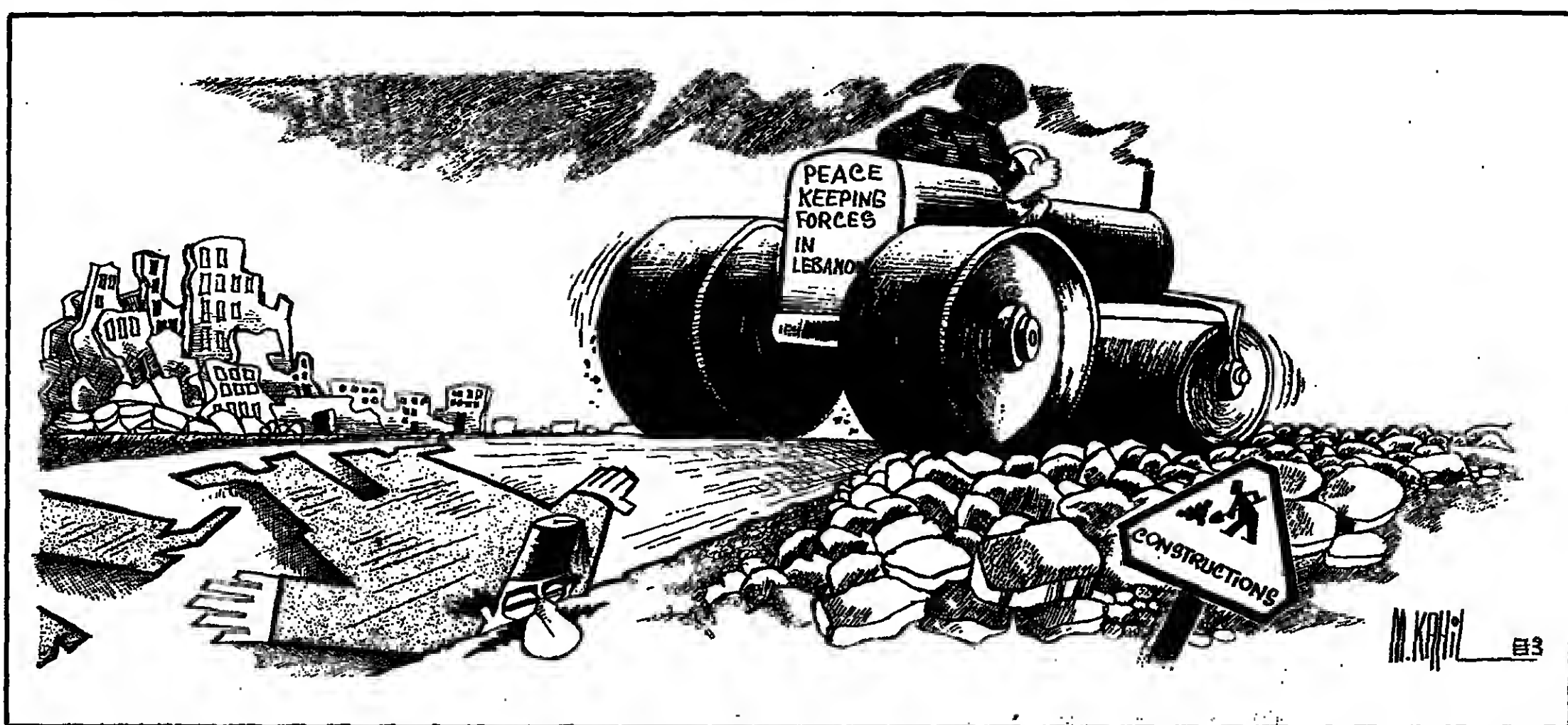
U.S. Marines in Lebanon or of reviving the overall Arab-Israeli peace process.

Despite U.S. allegations of Soviet interference in the Middle East, Moscow carefully avoided direct involvement in the Lebanon conflict beyond strengthening its links with Syria.

Informed Arab sources said the Soviets used their influence with Damascus to halt the advance of Syrian-backed PLO rebels against Mr. Arafat forces in Tripoli. In return, Moscow dropped its previous support for the PLO chairman and said it would recognise the rebels, the sources said.

Moscow's relations with Iran worsened during the year with the arrest of Iranian Communist Party leaders. But Tehran also maintained its strong anti-Western line and pro-Iranian factions were blamed for the Beirut bombings.

Middle East analysts believed the link between the Lebanon and Gulf conflicts could emerge as a key factor in the Middle East in the coming year.



Japan's LDP expected to win election despite open inter-party differences

By Patrick Massey
 Reuter

TOKYO — The shadow of the Lockheed bribery scandal hangs persistently over the stage on which Japanese politicians are battling for victory in next Sunday's general election.

Despite vigorous efforts by Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, the shadow refuses to fade. In a rare burst of irritation recently, the normally suave Nakasone accused his opponents of twitting like crickets on the subject of political ethics.

In campaign speeches, Mr. Nakasone has promised to avoid tax increases, to reform education, and to thin down the government bureaucracy. He has advised voters that his removal could cause problems for Japan's ties with the West.

But the subject keeps coming back to the four-year jail term imposed last October on former Premier Kakuei Tanaka on charges of accepting, while in office, a \$2 million bribe from the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

Freed on bail pending appeal, Mr. Tanaka is campaigning for his own re-election as an independent member of the 511-seat House of

Representatives. Though out of office for nine years, Mr. Tanaka still wields immense political influence.

And the voters know that Mr. Nakasone needs Mr. Tanaka's support to stay at the helm of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The assault against what is termed Tanaka-style money politics comes not only from the opposition but from within the LDP itself. Nearly a third of the 286 LDP members in the just-dissolved House of Representatives opposed Mr. Nakasone's leadership and the control exerted over him by Mr. Tanaka.

This intra-party conflict is being fought out on the hustings alongside the LDP's contest against opposition parties.

Under Japan's system of multi-member constituencies, LDP members are frequently pitted against each other on pro or anti-Nakasone platforms.

For all the internal LDP strife, hardly anyone expects the party to lose its 28-year-old grip on power. What is really at stake are two main issues.

The first is whether Mr. Nakasone himself can stay on as head of the LDP and therefore as prime

minister. A poor electoral showing by the party could put his position in jeopardy after the election.

The second issue is whether the opposition can eat away enough of the LDP vote to wrest control of key parliamentary committees, thereby exerting greater control of the legislative process.

To retain control of all the 18 standing committees in the house, the LDP needs 276 seats, 10 less than at present. Anything less would mean progressive loss of committee control. With only 260 seats, for instance, the LDP might lose control of the important budget committee.

With various political surveys showing a weakening of popular support for Mr. Nakasone, the prime minister is issuing only cautious predictions of victory.

In his speeches he confines himself to forecasting that the LDP is assured of at least a bare majority of 256 seats. Few experts would argue with that.

With such a low majority, Mr. Nakasone's prospects of retaining the premiership he won a year ago would be considered doubtful at best.

A survey by Kyodo news agency reported that the LDP could win

271 seats provided its candidates picked up support in the coming week. The survey said so far only 210 LDP candidates looked assured of victory.

The survey also reported a pickup in support for the Buddhist-based Komeito Party whose main campaign plan is for a clean-up in government ethics. Kyodo said Komeito already seemed assured of 36 seats, two more than in the old house, and could capture as many as 210 others.

The survey said this apparent gain seemed to come not only from the LDP but from the principal opposition group, the Japan Socialist Party (JSP). The JSP is mounting its attack not only against corruption but on what it terms the militaristic policies of Mr. Nakasone.

During last month's visit to Japan by President Reagan, Mr. Nakasone took pains to parade his own personal relationship with the U.S. leader and to promote the idea that he is regarded in the West as Japan's most reliable leader.

JSP chairman Masashi Ishibashi cited Mr. Nakasone's call for common U.S.-Japanese defence as evidence that the prime minister seeks a military buildup.

Pretoria said to be suffering from lack of modern air force

By Thomas Thomson
 Reuter

CAPE TOWN — Ageing South African Shackleton reconnaissance aircraft patrol the strategic Cape Sea route but officers warn this function is threatened by an arms embargo.

The government says its air force and navy maintain a constant patrol against what it sees as a Communist threat to its shores and the West's oil lifeline.

But its role as guardian of the Cape waterway is in jeopardy because of a 1977 United Nations arms embargo imposed over the country's policy of apartheid (racial separation based on white supremacy), the officers say.

Air force Col. Jimmy Kotze told Reuters during a pre-flight briefing at Silver Mine, South Africa's secret maritime communications bunker near Cape Town, that long-range surveillance flights would be phased out next year.

Mr. Kotze said South Africa would then patrol only its inshore waters using light Albatross aircraft.

According to independent estimates, South Africa has five Shackletons. Air force officers said the 26-year-old aircraft were at the end of their life and could not be revamped with material available in South Africa.

The Cape Sea route is used by some 7,000 to 8,000 ships a year, according to South African military estimates. Shell oil company estimated that about 6.3 million barrels a day of oil were carried last year, with the bulk destined for Western Europe and the balance for the United States, South America and the Caribbean.

It provides, according to air force officers, an irreplaceable oil supply route from the Gulf free of the risks of blockage of the Suez or Panama Canals.

Air force officers said at the briefing that Soviet submarines were known to operate in the waters off the Cape, while Soviet fishing boats gathering radio intelligence collected to large numbers off Namibia (South West Africa).

The government repeatedly warns of what it says is a Communist threat to the white-ruled

republic and stresses the West's vulnerability if the Soviet Union seized the country's strategic mineral wealth.

South Africa uses the Shackletons, each with a crew of 13, on patrols lasting up to 15 hours, to monitor coastal waters from the Mozambique border round the Cape and up the coast of Namibia, which it rules in defiance of the U.N., to Angola.

The Shackletons and ships from the navy's main base at Simonstown on the Cape peninsula and other ports, piece together an intelligence picture of potentially hostile shipping.

The officers said information picked up about normal shipping accidents and searches for civilian vessels was passed to the United States coast guard.

Military data was passed to the South African intelligence agencies, but they declined to say if it was then transmitted to friendly Western countries.

Simonstown navy base, nestled in a small bay on the Cape peninsula, provides the sea defence which complements air surveillance, navy officers at the base told Reuters.

It was built by the British as a base but the Royal Navy in 1975 terminated its agreement to use Simonstown following growing international pressure over apartheid. Base officials said NATO ships had called since then.

A tour of the harbour showed one of South Africa's three submarines, of the French-built Daphne class, high and dry in a repair shed for routine maintenance.

The officers said South Africa was able to make replacement plates for the hull using special steel produced locally. Under the arms embargo, submarine parts cannot be bought from France.

They also pointed out three locally-made strike craft which they said carried missiles and were able to operate at high speeds. Figures were classified.

A dry dock said to be able to accommodate the largest ships of the British and U.S. navies was being used to repair a South African navy ship.

"It's there for the West if ever they decide they need us again," an officer said.

Americans for boycotting S. Africa

By Jacqueline Frank
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — A movement among U.S. cities and states aimed at putting economic pressure on South Africa to end its policy of apartheid (racial separation) appears to be gaining momentum.

More than 20 local governments are now threatening to pull pension and other investment funds out of U.S. firms operating in South Africa because of the white minority government's discriminatory laws.

The campaign runs counter to the Reagan administration's policy of working with South Africa to achieve gradual change.

In the past two years three large northern states, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Michigan, have passed laws to bring about the withdrawal of some \$300 million in funds invested in U.S. companies doing business in South Africa.

Eight cities, including Philadelphia and Atlanta, have approved similar sanctions.

Next year at least four more states are expected to pass laws on investment in businesses involved in South Africa, and the issue will be debated in another 16 states and 10 cities, including New York and Dallas.

The boycott is aimed at the 350 U.S. firms active in South Africa. These include some of the largest American companies such as Ford, IBM, General Motors, Mobil and Dow Chemical.

If approved by such populous areas as New York City and California, pension funds totalling more than \$50 billion would be affected.

State officials say the movement wants to send a message to Pretoria that the recent changes giving a limited political role to Indians and Coloureds (people of mixed race), but not for South

Africa's 70 per cent black majority, do not go far enough.

Connecticut's assistant investment officer, Barbara Reid, told Reuters that full civil rights for black South Africans are not expected to follow directly from one state's boycott action.

"There is no question that it is symbolic. The securities we sell could certainly be picked up by others," she said.

Connecticut sold shares in 12 companies dealing with South Africa at a profit of \$5.7 million.

Some investment counsellors argue that the sanctions will limit possible profits and create more risks for pension funds.

Proponents of the anti-apartheid measures argue that U.S. companies have some power to influence the South African government and are in effect cooperating with Pretoria by selling products such as computers, oil cars and trucks which the gov-

ernment uses to enforce apartheid.

The potential cost in public relations and loss of capital has begun to worry some companies, who have joined forces to oppose the state and city proposals.

The director of Ford's International Governmental Affairs Division, William Broderick, said that U.S. companies have been a major force for improving conditions for South Africa's 70 per cent black majority.

In an interview with Reuters, he agreed with those who say change is slow in South Africa. "But they do not address how change will come any faster if all American companies leave," he said.

Black South Africans would have far fewer opportunities for job advancement, education and improved housing and services if U.S. companies leave, he said.

Ford operates four plants in South Africa employing 6,000 people, including 4,000 blacks.

لجنة العمل

Ayari: In Africa it is a problem of mere survival

The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, known by its French initials BADEA, was set up in Khartoum in January 1975 by 18 Arab governments to assist economic development in black Africa and strengthen friendship and solidarity between Arabs and Africans. BADEA's main purpose is to provide loans on concessional terms for specific projects in any of the African countries which are members of the Organisation of African Unity but do not belong to the Arab League. In September, BADEA's chairman, Dr. Chadli Ayari, of Tunisia, attended a conference in London in which investment opportunities in Africa were examined and presented to British businessmen. During the conference Dr. Ayari actively sought private investment and financing in Africa to complete the programme provided by official aid agencies. He was interviewed by The Middle East Times correspondent Sara Towse.

Q: During the conference, you suggested that private investment in Africa can only progress alongside public investment. Aid funds are declining not only in the Western world, but within the Arab World as well. In light of that, what do you see as the future of development?

A: What I suggested was that there is a close link among all the financial parameters for any developing country. When public aid dries up for a country, it is not helpful at all for a private company. Money brings money.

Q: But aid to the developing world is drying up. What hopes exist for these countries?

A: In the long run, and even in the short run, if there is no international recovery, if trade does not flow normally between the different parts of the world, if the International Monetary Fund (IMF) crisis continues, if the credibility gap goes on, there will be no hope at all. No private firms will come, neither in Africa, nor in Latin America nor in Asia. What I said was that to create the dynamic condition for the private sector to come in Africa and elsewhere, we have to coordinate our efforts and increase the public aid as well. Having better trade creates the

dynamic of development in these countries.

With the decreasing oil income today, but worse than that, with the sluggishness of recovery, the IMF crisis, and the IDA replenishment issue in Washington, I'm afraid we shall not provide the private sector with the right conditions to work, neither in Africa nor in Latin America nor in Asia.

One should not think that private capital is a substitute for the international economic financing system. This is one of my beliefs. Latin America today is a very simple example, the private sector used to be very active in Latin America. Now, since '82 and '83, we are witnessing a crisis in the private sector because Latin America is in full crisis today with the international system as a whole.

This will apply to Africa as well. Of course you will have some private businessmen coming and doing this and that in some countries with some guarantees and so forth. But I'm not suggesting that at all. I think we should create the proper environment for private capital to take a risk. It is not the business of the international community as a whole.

Q: BADEA and the other Arab agencies met recently with IMF

and World Bank officials. What did you say to them?

A: What I said, personally, to the World Bank and others in Washington, was this: Arab funds have their own problems. We cannot make our contribution higher than it is now unless the World Bank and the whole international system progresses. We cannot be the alternative of last resort. Of course the president of the World Bank, Mr. (A.W.) Clausen, is not responsible for what's happened. But we are hammering out a solution and I would like to over-dramatise this issue.

Q: What do you mean by 'over-dramatise'?

A: Any one of us today in the field of development aid, in the development business, should be concerned with the total picture of what is going on at the international level. The Arab agencies... whatever the wealth of the Arabs... should make it very clear that there is no hope for increasing the resources for developing countries if there is no coordination for that purpose, if there is no good recovery in the United States or a change in its policy, or if the percentage of GNP for official aid to developing countries from the OECD countries does not change, and so on.

Of course this was one of the items on the agenda at the World Bank. We had some rather difficult issues to talk about there. But the private sector is not the panacea of the aid problems. It is a welcome component, but it will not be a dynamic thing unless the international scene changes.

Q: So your first job is to work with the other agencies to generate more funds?

A: Well, so far, 90 per cent of



Dr. Chadli Ayari

our activities have been with official agencies.

Q: In the projects BADEA has undertaken what percentage of investment is Arab private money?

A: None.

Q: What plans do you have to encourage it?

A: I think we should have a meeting with the official agencies and Arab private investors. We should arrange for that, definitely.

Q: Have you had meetings in other countries with the private sector?

A: Yes, in Vienna last May under the aegis of the OPEC

Fund. The OPEC Fund organised a meeting with the Arab agencies and the local private investors. Personally, I thought the meeting wasn't all that successful. We do not talk in the same way as official and private sectors. But still there was some dialogue as to how to cooperate together.

Q: In a paper you prepared for the conference, you discuss the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). There are two scenarios, you say. One, based on economic trends of the past, and another more hopeful. You describe them as a minimum and maximum harnessing of African resources. Could you comment on that?

A: That is a projection by the ECA staff in Addis Ababa for the next 25 years in Africa... a very long-term projection. Of course, as with all projections, it has scenarios and alternatives. What the ECA was doing was to summarise the worst case situation and then a better one. The worst situation would come about if nothing changed, no basic changes in the economy. Africa would then be in a very difficult position. But if a number of things were arranged, there is some hope. I would say, however, that even in the second scenario progress would not be great. Capital income increase would be very modest.

A lot of things could be done in terms of official aid flows and trade. Africa, particularly, even more than Latin America and Asia, should be the main concern of the international community because its problems cannot be handled in the way we are handling the Asian problems or the Latin American problems.

Q: You have said that 26 out of the 31 least developed countries in the world are in Africa. What criteria do you use to determine that?

A: The least developed countries lack everything. The only continent which has been negative on all fronts for the last three, four or five years is Africa. Every country has been making some progress, with the exception of those in Africa. Africa cannot be treated as just one part of the Third World. It has to be tackled in a specific setting, with specific medicine — with the purpose of acting rapidly and with heavy means and resources. Otherwise there will be political instability in many areas. The young generation of Africans that is coming to the fore will

not accept the same conditions. This generation has seen what is going on around the world. There is what was called the 'revolution of rising expectations'. This is a term used in the 1960s and it is happening now with this generation everywhere. We never know what's going to happen in Africa politically.

Q: Then there is a serious threat of political upheaval in Africa if the world does not take care of its economic needs?

A: Absolutely. The people in government today in Africa will not be able to handle the issues, because they won't be political

theory. What is the difference between Arab and Western states seeking markets in Africa and the theory that recovery of the developed world's economy depends on a reactivation of Third World demand?

A: It is not a matter of the oil business. That is very odd. That argument is that the Arab aim is to increase the consumption of oil, Arab oil, and to enlarge the market for Arab oil in Africa. It's totally wrong. The African market for oil is very limited. It is about 30 million tons a year, maybe 40 million. This is a very small compared to the Arab oil reserves.

The least developed countries lack everything. The only continent which has been negative on all fronts is Africa; every country has been making some progress, with the exception of those in Africa. Africa cannot be treated as just one part of the Third World, it has to be tackled in a specific setting, with specific medicine — with the purpose of acting rapidly and with heavy means and resources. Otherwise there will be political instability in many areas.

problems. The problem will be one of food... how to enable the people to merely survive. Like the Brandt Commission said... it's a fight for survival. It has nothing to do with communism or Marxism. No. It's people who are fighting for their survival.

Q: Some have suggested that the Arabs were interested in developing a market for their oil in Africa. You disagree with this

Secondly, the Arabs are not interested in selling oil to the Africans at all. It's not a good market for them.

The issue is the second part of your question... how to help Africa. The Arabs would like to develop other sources of energy in Africa, so that there would be less reliance on oil. The Arabs are helping Africans to produce African oil.

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SPORTS

Liverpool regains top place

LONDON (R) — Notts County showed the true spirit of Christmas when they presented Liverpool with the three points they needed to regain top place in the English soccer first division on Saturday.

Liverpool, who started the afternoon two points behind Manchester United — 4-2 winners over Tottenham on Friday night — swept to a 5-0 win, the first three goals arriving in the opening 35 minutes, all nicely gift-wrapped by the County defence.

The champions, chasing the title for the seventh time in nine seasons, moved back to the top with 37 points from 19 games, one point ahead of United and four in front of third-placed West Ham, who lost 3-1 at Nottingham Forest.

County's friendship mission to Anfield began in the 12th minute when Mark Goodwin was woefully short with a passback and Liverpool midfielder Steve Nicol beat goalkeeper Jim McDonagh to the ball and slipped home the opener.

Not to be outdone, Tristan Benjamin made his offering in the 22nd minute when he needlessly bundled Kenny Dalglish off the ball and Graeme Souness drove the resultant penalty high into the net.

County's generosity knew no bounds. In the 35th minute little Sammy Lee tried a speculative shot from 20 metres, and although McDonagh had the ball covered, David Hunt stepped in to deflect it past the bewildered goalkeeper.

Liverpool, however, were not content to let county do all the work for them and Ian Rush, who took his personal haul for the season to 18, and Souness raised the tally to five in the 51th and 83rd minutes.

Arsenal, who gave their sup-

erbs headed goals, so reminiscent of his famous uncle, John Charles, who played for Juventus in the 1950s.

It was not such a happy debut for Ipswich's 19-year-old defender Ian Cranston, however. Cranston's league career was only three minutes old against Aston Villa when he headed the ball into his own net and Ipswich finally went down 4-0.

Cup-winners' cup holders Aberdeen warmed up for their European Super Cup second-leg against Hamburg on Wednesday with a workmanlike 2-1 win over visiting Hibernian to remain three points clear at the top of the Scottish Premier League.

Aberdeen made a lightning start when Mark McGhee shot them ahead inside 61 seconds but they lacked their usual sparkle and it took an own goal by Hibernian defender John Blackley in the 55th minute to put them further ahead. Willie Irvine pulled one back for the Edinburgh side near the end.

Celtic remained second courtesy of a 3-1 win at Hearts. Brian McClair netted the opener in the 26th minute and Celtic looked to be well on the road to victory when teenage striker Jim Dobbie added another midway through the second half.

But Hearts surged back and a goal from John Robertson in the 75th minute set up a grandstand finish as play switched from end to end. It was McClair who had the last word, however, when he sealed the points nine minutes from time.

Rangers continued their revival under Jack Wallace with a 2-1 win over Dundee at Ibrox, their goals coming from Robert Russell and new-signing Bobby Williamson.

Unsettled stars to discuss Hamburg's problem

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — European soccer champions Hamburg of West Germany, beaten 2-1 by Brazil's Gremio in the World Club Championship in Tokyo on Sunday, arrived home Saturday with bad feeling openly breaking out among the side.

Strikers Wolfram Wutke and Dieter Schatzschneider appear to be at the centre of the dispute,

which has blown up only four days before Hamburg travel to Scotland's Aberdeen for the second leg of the European Supercup final. The first leg was drawn 0-0.

Various players, including team captain Felix Magath and goalkeeper Ulli Stein, have voiced dissatisfaction over the failure of the two expensive close season signings to live up to expectations.

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Jordan focuses attention on programmes for youth

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's plans for the International Year of Youth (1985) have been outlined by Dr. Mohammad Mamser. In an interview with Al Ra'i newspaper Saturday, Dr. Mamser, a member of the Jordanian National Organising Committee for the International Year of Youth and representative of the University of Jordan said that the committee is entrusted with heavy tasks and faces major challenges. "In my view, however, he said "the committee should carry out the following activities:

- 1 — Set up a sub-committee specialised in presenting a general image of Jordanian youth activities.
- 2 — Organise a competition for 15-25-year-old youths in preparation to serve as an emblem for the occasion.
- 3 — Organise programmes to orient Jordanian youths on various sports and youth activities in the world in general and the Arab World and Jordan in particular.
- 4 — Entrust specialists and researchers to write books on different subjects connected with youth issues.
- 5 — Entrust specialists to prepare studies on issues and problems of Jordanian youths in the '80s.
- 6 — Organise seminars and conferences to tackle Jordanian youth issues.
- 7 — Create a national youth organisation to handle youth activities and be staffed with youths.
- 8 — Issue "Youth" medals and awards for those excelling in youth activities and other similar performances.
- 9 — Issue commemorative stamps to mark the International Year of Youth.
- 10 — Ask for a revision of legislations governing youth organisations in Jordan with a view to introducing amendments to conform with international developments.
- 11 — Take measures to make available the necessary funds to implement programmes included in the International Year of Youth, and this can be done through committees.
- 12 — Launch a project in Jordan by Jordanian youth who should be allowed to plan, find means to finance, execute and finally operate the project.
- 13 — Request educational institutions including universities to include sports and youth programmes in their curricula covering sports, arts, music, scouts and crafts activities.
- 14 — Try to issue a legislation in Jordan covering tourism for youths in Jordan and abroad, and also try to reactivate youth hostels in Jordan.

Steiner underlines challenge as Hess stays overall top

PIANCAVALLO, Italy (R) — Austria's Roswitha Steiner confirmed she is on course for glory when she won a women's World Ski Cup slalom on Saturday, but Swiss star Erika Hess stayed top of the overall standings.

Hess was comfortably fourth, while Steiner won in a combined time of one minute 34.05 seconds, second placed Malgorzata Tlalka of Poland recorded 1:34.33 and Maria-Rosa Quario of Italy was third in 1:34.72.

Steiner, who opened her World

Cup assault with a second place at Sestriere on Wednesday, clinched victory here with her second run, gracefully balanced with faultless rhythm.

Hess's performance sustained her bid for a second overall World Cup crown and she leads the standings with 123 points, well clear of West German Irene Epple (93), who dropped out of Saturday's race. Title-holder Tamara McKinney of the United States is fifth on 49.

Yankees sack manager for 3rd time

NEW YORK (R) — Billy Martin was dismissed Friday as manager of the New York Yankees baseball team for the third time and replaced by Yogi Berra, who once led them to an American League Championship.

But Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said Martin would stay with the team as his top adviser and added: "We've never been closer."

Berra, a former All-Star catcher, led the Yankees to the 1964 American League Pennant but was dismissed after he lost the seventh game of the World Series. Steinbrenner has owned the Yankees since 1973 and has hired and fired 11 managers, including Martin three times.

"Martin alienated many of his players last season after the team failed to win the Pennant. There were also persistent reports that top relief pitcher Rich Gossage would not re-sign unless Martin went. Gossage has still not signed."

S.Korea challenges Chinese table tennis

BAHRAIN (R) — South Korea, cheered on by hundreds of supporters, seemed set on Saturday to mount a strong challenge to favourites China in the team events of the Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships here.

South Korea will meet China in the final of the girls' team event on Sunday, while the two countries appeared certain to vie for the championship in the boys' event.

Nystrom beats Cash to raise Sweden's Davis Cup hopes

SYDNEY (R) — Joakim Nystrom beat Australia's Pat Cash 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in the semi-finals of the New South Wales Open Tennis Championships on Saturday to give an enormous boost to Sweden's hopes of winning the Davis Cup later this month.

The Swede won the match in one hour 22 minutes with an impressive display of serve-and-volley tennis, something which Cash and the Australians had not expected.

His victory left Swedish Davis Cup officials in a tricky decision on who should fill the second string singles position behind Australian Open winner Mats Wilander in the final against Australia starting on December 26.

Should Nystrom defeat Mike Bauer of the United States in Sunday's final here, he must be strongly fancied to fill the position ahead of Anders Jarryd, the original favourite.

Bauer beat fellow-American Marty Davis 6-2, 6-3 in Saturday's semi-final.

Nystrom wrapped up the first set in 27 minutes, after breaking

Cash to love in the 10th game. In the second, Cash opened up with a service break and then holding on to take the set.

Nystrom grabbed the initiative in the third set and took what appeared to be an unbeatable 4-0 lead. Cash rallied with a break in the fifth game but could not stave off the determined Swede who held service in the seventh to lead 5-2.

To his credit, he showed his champion qualities by taking his next service and then breaking Nystrom in the ninth game to trail 4-5.

But in the end the effort told on his serving and Nystrom broke him, to 30, to win the match.

It was unlikely that Saturday's defeat will affect Cash's chances of playing in the Davis Cup singles, but he will need to play better to give Australia a chance of winning the cup.

Australian captain Neale Fraser had expected his players to win the two singles rubbers against Sweden's second string player, with Wilander holding his and the result depending on the doubles.

A disappointed Cash said after the game it would be completely different in the Davis Cup in Melbourne.

"I felt I played well. On grass three set matches like this are hit and miss. It is not a true test unless they are played over five sets," he said.

"That was just a warm-up for the Davis Cup. I think I could have beaten him had I played well."

Swedish Davis Cup captain Hans Olsson refused to say who his second singles player would be, but he said it would be a tremendous boost to his players if Nystrom won Sunday's final against Bauer.

"I have been very, very impressed with his form here. He has played extremely well and I could not be happier," Olsson said of Nystrom.

Still, Jarryd has beaten Nystrom on the eight occasions they have met, something Olsson obviously has in the back of his mind.

Nystrom himself said he must win the final to have any chance of playing in the Melbourne singles.

IOC chief hopes for record participation in Los Angeles

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee, said here on Saturday he was optimistic that there would be a record participation at the 1984 games "provided the international political condition is not worse than it is today."

Asked about the possibility of a boycott of the games in Los Angeles by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, he said the chairman of the Soviet Sports Commission had assured him that "the word boycott does not exist in the Soviet vocabulary."

From his own observations dur-

ing visits to socialist countries, he was convinced that all of them "were making earnest and vigorous preparations for the games."

He said he would have further talks with the Soviet official on his return to Switzerland.

Earlier, Samaranch said the IOC would pay the full expenses for six athletes from each of the 42 African Olympic countries to compete at Los Angeles.

Samaranch told reporters the IOC would also give each country's Olympic committee \$6,000 in cash to buy uniforms and for other related expenses. The assistance was intended to promote a record attendance by African athletes at the games.

Samaranch, who returns to Switzerland on Sunday, said his trip was part of a pledge he made when he was elected two years ago to visit all IOC member countries.

He said he would visit nine East African countries in April next year and the rest of Africa by the end of 1984.

He said relations between the IOC and Africa were now much more cordial and the IOC had set aside \$700,000 to develop what he called "Olympic solidarity" with the African countries.

FISA says Piquet's Formula One car legal

PARIS (R) — International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) President Jean-Marie Balestre has dismissed suggestions in two French newspapers that the Brabham-BMW driven by World Champion Nelson Piquet may have broken fuel regulations in two of this season's Grands Prix.

A sports editorial in Friday's Le Monde said the Brazilian may have infringed the rules by using 102.8 octane fuel with a density of 0.83 during the German and Italian rounds of the series. Piquet failed to finish at Hockenheim but won the Italian race at Monza.

The sports daily L'Equipe questioned Piquet's title victory, reporting rumours that he had overstepped the octane and density limits.

But Balestre, head of the sport's governing body, denied the reports at a Paris press conference Friday night, saying fuel tests taken after Grand Prix races this

year showed no irregularities.

Balestre said FISA had set the octane rating for Formula One cars at 102 with a tolerance level of 0.9. No limits on fuel densities existed within current regulations, he added.

Although he did not mention Piquet by name, Balestre said: "Under these terms, the petrol used by BMW — fixed at 102.8 — lies within the norms and is perfectly legal."

The closing date for team entries for next year's championship is January 31 and drivers must be declared by February 28, he said.

The venue for the Belgian Grand Prix, to be held at Spa or Zolder, would be decided by January 15.

Balestre also confirmed a previous announcement that next year's European Grand Prix would be staged on West German's re-shaped Nurburgring circuit on Oct. 7.

He noted that the growing list of countries wishing to host a Formula One Grand Prix for the first time now included Hungary, which had made an application for a date next year. Japan had also requested a return to the Formula One calendar in March, 1985.

Balestre said changes in the Formula One technical rules proposed for 1986 would be discussed by a special FISA committee in January.

Kasparov defeats Korchnoi

LONDON (R) — Soviet prodigy Gary Kasparov clinched a berth in the World Chess Championship elimination finals on Friday when he defeated Soviet Viktor Korchnoi in 32 moves in game 11 of their semi-final.

Korchnoi, 32, playing black and needing to win both remaining

games in the series to force a play off, attempted the dynamic Becon defence and displayed sharp and risky play.

But his 20-year-old opponent countered with active and accurate moves which left Korchnoi short of time and with a ruined position.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. wholesale prices decline 0.2%

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. wholesale prices dropped 0.2 per cent in November, reflecting lower food and energy costs, after modest rises over the past several months, the Labour Department said Friday. For the first 11 months of 1983, the index for wholesale prices rose at a 0.3 per cent rate, the lowest level in nearly 20 years.

Philips close to raising stake in Grundig

AMSTERDAM (R) — The Dutch electronics giant Philips is apparently close to agreeing to take a majority stake in Grundig of West Germany, creating a more powerful group to resist Japanese competition, industry sources said Friday. Philips confirmed that it was holding talks with Grundig on increasing its present 24.5 per cent stake. A spokesman told Reuters these talks were in a far advanced stage. Industry sources said Philips was expected to take control of Grundig with a stake of more than 50 per cent in a deal worth several hundred million dollars. Grundig holds a large share of the West German television, radio and video market.

U.S. textile curbs may anger China

WASHINGTON (R) — In a move that could eventually test U.S.-Chinese relations, the Reagan administration Friday issued new rules to help U.S. textile manufacturers meet growing competition from imports. The rules set standards for determining when imports disrupt or threaten to disrupt domestic production and could open the way for specific action to curb foreign textile sales in the United States. Administration officials said the standards could lead to an assessment that textile imports from China among other countries were hurting the American industry. A judgement on which countries were affected would be made after further study, the officials said.

British inflation rate slows to 4.8%

LONDON (R) — Britain's annual inflation rate slowed to 4.8 per cent in November from 5 per cent the previous month, the government announced Friday. Employment Secretary Tom King said the government was confident the year-on-year inflation rise in the fourth quarter of 1983 would be about 5 per cent. "It means that for 1983 prices will have risen more slowly than at any time since 1969," he added. Inflation reached a peak in Britain of nearly 22 per cent in 1980, falling to 3.7 per cent in May and June this year.

Ethiopian minister accuses U.S. firm

ADDISABABA (R) — Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Development Minister Yehualashet Gilma has called on African coffee producers to sever ties with Saks International, a United States firm he accuses of selling Ethiopian coffee under an El Salvador brand name. Mr. Yehualashet made the call here Friday night at the closing session of the 23rd annual general assembly of the International Coffee Organisation (ICO). He said the documenting of Ethiopian coffee sold by Saks International in Saudi Arabia as coffee from El Salvador was grossly unethical and was an "illicit and illegal business practice."

IMF, Peru reach preliminary accord

LIMA (R) — The Peruvian economy ministry said Friday it had reached an agreement in principle with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on terms for an 18-month extended loan to Peru. A ministry spokesman said that a government delegation would go shortly to IMF headquarters in Washington to make final arrangements for the \$425 million standby loan. The IMF's approval of the standby loan would open the way for Peru to receive a \$200 million World Bank structural adjustment loan, the ministry said.

Argentina outlines economic plans

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's new elected president, Mr. Raul Alfonsín, outlined his government's plans for economic growth Friday night and announced a package of economic and social legislation to be sent to congress.

He said in a televised address the government was aiming for 5 per cent economic growth next year to lift Argentina out of its present recession.

The government also aimed to slash the budget deficit to 4 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 14 per cent this year, he said.

Mr. Alfonsín was sworn in last Saturday after his reformist Radical Party won elections which returned Argentina to democracy after nearly 8 years of military rule.

He listed a package of economic and social legislation to be sent to congress, including a bill to make trade unions more democratic and free from political interference.

The bill was likely to encounter stiff resistance from the opposition Peronist Party, which for the last 40 years has controlled Argentina's powerful trade union movement.

Mr. Alfonsín announced also draft legislation to establish a minimum salary to be adjusted automatically with the cost of living and a national food programme to distribute basic foodstuffs to needy families.

Other bills included a tax reform aimed at increasing direct taxes on income and property, while reducing indirect taxes on consumption.

Mr. Alfonsín said the key to economic recovery was to reduce and eventually eliminate the budget deficit by increasing government revenue and cutting unnecessary state spending, including the defence budget.

He also said his government would demand improved conditions for rescheduling Argentina's \$40 billion foreign debt in 1984, including lower interest rates and longer terms for repayment.

Argentina's ability to pay off its debt in the long term depended on a recovery in the world economy which would allow increased exports and a larger trade surplus, he said.

Meanwhile, Argentina will give priority to clearing arrears on commercial payments while talks on rescheduling the country's \$40 billion foreign debt take place over the next six months, banking sources said Friday.

Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun made the pledge on the commercial arrears of about \$1 billion at a meeting with representatives of Argentina's steering committee of foreign creditor banks here Thursday, the sources said.

Mr. Grinspun also said Argentina would pay interest on the foreign debt to the best of its ability while rescheduling talks are under way, they added.

The economy minister did not make clear when Argentina would bring its commercial arrears up to date, nor did he say when a further \$1 billion of arrears in interest payments on the financial debt would be paid off, the sources said.

Mr. Grinspun said only that Argentina would use \$2.5 billion of its expected \$3.5 billion 1984 trade surplus to clear its arrears and make interest payments, they added.

The banking sources said that assuming all principal payments on the foreign debt are rescheduled, Argentina will have to pay about \$7.7 billion in service payments to its foreign creditors in 1984.

The payments comprise \$5 billion in interest, \$2 billion of arrears from 1983 and \$700 million in bridging credit granted as part of this year's debt refinancing package.

In order to meet these payments, Argentina is counting on the \$2.5 billion of its expected trade surplus and \$1 billion of credit still pending under a standby agreement with the IMF which is to be revised.

It also hopes for \$1 billion of funds from an existing \$1.5 billion medium term loan, and \$3.2 billion of fresh financing to be obtained from the banks, the IMF and other international financial institutions.

Kohl says economy definitely on mend

BONN (R) — The West German economy, Europe's biggest, is definitely on the mend and businessmen and investors are starting to see the benefits, according to Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

In an interview published Saturday in the Neue Osnabruecker Zeitung, he was quoted as saying that the rise in unemployment had been halted, as shown by data from the past two months.

Mr. Kohl, whose centre-right coalition came to power in October last year, said his confidence was shared by renowned economic experts.

"The economy has indisputably turned the corner," he said.

Gross National Product (GNP), the broadest measure of economic output, was growing at an accelerating pace. Next year it would grow 2.5 per cent after only 1 per cent growth this year.

"Particularly important is that business earnings are growing and investment terms improving," he said.

Investment in the third quarter stood 7.7 per cent above investment in the same period last year.

For the first time in many years the number of new businesses being set up was increasing while the number of insolvencies was falling, Mr. Kohl said.

Even opposition politicians acknowledged the turnaround.

Mr. Helmut Jochimsen, Social Democratic economics minister of North Rhine Westphalia, Germany's industrial heartland, had said more new businesses were started in his state in the first 11 months of this year than during the whole of 1982.

Major refiner cuts oil purchasing price

NEW YORK (R) — A major U.S. oil refiner Friday slashed the price it is willing to pay for domestic crude in a move that sent oil prices down around the world.

The Citgo Petroleum Corporation said it was cutting the price it pays for all sorts of crude oil by \$1.50 a barrel, bringing the price of the key West Texas intermediate crude to \$28.50.

The cut in what refiners call their posted price was the first major downward move in the price of U.S. oil since February.

One buyer of crude oil for a large company said the size of the cut by Citgo, a subsidiary of the Southland Corporation, came as a surprise. He had expected any price cut to be closer to \$1 a barrel.

He added that a cut had been expected because profit margins for refiners had become very thin. But another industry source cal-

led Citgo's cut excessive and said it would not be followed by other refiners.

He said the only type of crude oil for which the cut made sense was West Texas intermediate.

Citgo will now pay only \$26.50 a barrel for West Texas sour.

News of the Citgo move sent the price of crude down in both spot and futures markets.

The sharpest decline came in futures, with the price of oil for January delivery on the New York mercantile exchange falling to \$28.75 a barrel after trading as high as \$29.13 early Friday.

Oil traders in Rotterdam said the Citgo cut reinforced spot market weakness there and added to pressure on the British National Oil Corporation to lower the price of North Sea oil.

The price of North Sea Brent, a key crude oil, fell to \$28.50 a barrel there. The official price is \$30.

Volvo 760 GLE unveiled in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Thursday night at Amman's Royal Automobile Club, a reception was held to unveil the Volvo 760 GLE.

Presenting the car were Volvo's local agents together with a highly professional Volvo support team flown in from Sweden for the occasion. It has also been arranged for the general public to view the car at the Royal Automobile Club on Saturday the 17th, Sunday the 18th and Monday the 19th of December.

The Volvo 760 GLE is a completely new vehicle based on the traditions of safety, quality and reliability that have given Volvo its unique name in the automotive world, according to a spokesman of its agents here.

The design indicates the complete car concept of Volvo from the points of technology, comfort, safety and quality. The aerodynamically efficient body styling contributes to a low level of wind roar inside the passenger

compartment, the spokesman said.

The interior is designed to provide a luxurious and comfortable environment to meet most individual requirements and the interior upholstery is, colour, coordinated and available in plush or leather, the spokesman added.

The new Volvo Automatic Climate Control (ACC) is a regulating system that automatically holds the desired temperatures inside the car irrespective of outside air temperature, by a special censoring computer which distributes through 13 nozzles inside the car.

The crash safety level stands up to frontal collision at speeds of 55 kilometres per hour. The brake system is of the unique Volvo triangle-split dual-circuit type. It provides the driver with practically full braking effect even if one of the circuits should fail since 3 wheels are then always braking, the spokesman said.

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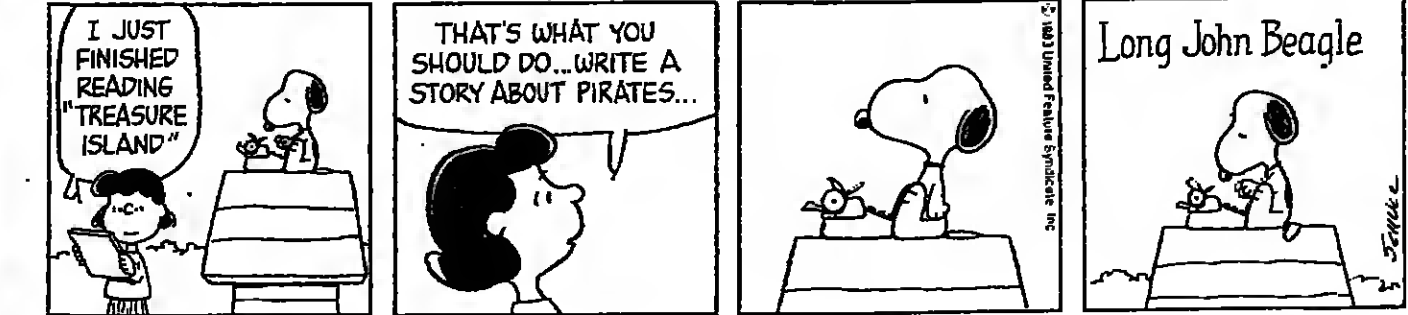
THE BETTER HALF By Harris

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"Harriet, where did you get the new alarm clock?"

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

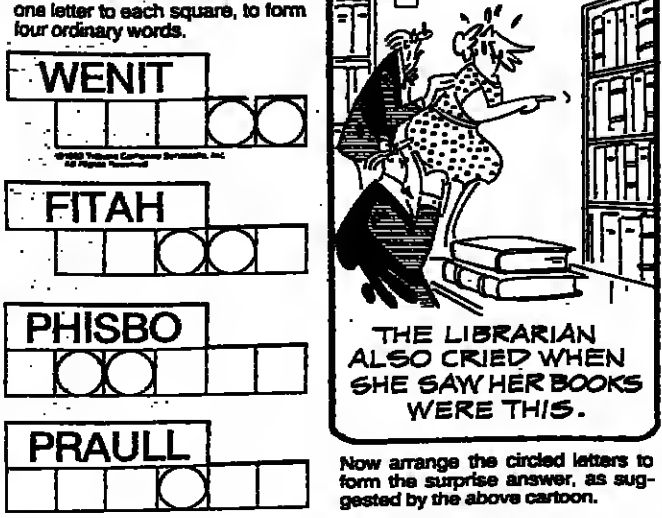


Andy Capp



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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SNORT ALIAS SAILOR EXPOSE

Answer: It was his last meal, but you should have seen this HOW THE ASSASSINATE (assassin ate)

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Take conditions in stride; don't be upset by unusual situations. Observe what is occurring and be sure that you use your most logical reasoning power to handle matters.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Meditate on how to spend the holiday according to your understanding. Don't wait until the last minute to wrap gifts.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study your monetary position to see if you can improve it. Try to increase the value of your property.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Discuss your advancement with successful persons. Have a delightful time with good friends tonight.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Meditate on what you most desire and plan on how to gain it. You have been too demanding with your mate; tone it down.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Plan to gain your hopes and desires. Make arrangements to see a friend you want to be in your life; charm him or her.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Improve your standing in the community and gain the support of a bigshot. Have a delightful time with friends in town this evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can now understand the ideas that have eluded you before. Make use of them. Show your leadership qualities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Discover the root of your nervousness. Soon you will be poised and calm. You will have a happy evening with your mate at a social affair.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't ask direct questions about the puzzling manner of a partner; let others do it. Be social with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good day to repay favors and show your gratitude. Improve your health. A new heli-dome might improve your appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Make appointments to be with those you want. Show devotion to your loved one. This can be a very happy day for you.

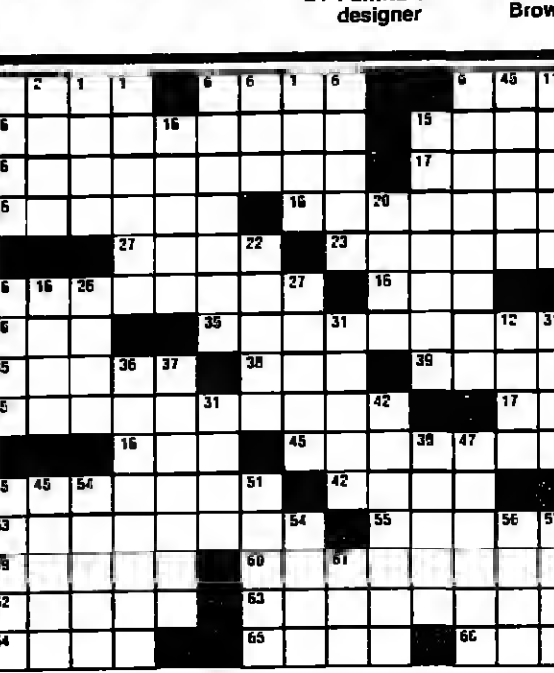
PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Stay home and plan the holiday festivities nicely. Entertain a few close friends in the evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be someone who has a quick mind and an easy grace plus manual dexterity. Slant education along modern lines. Teach early to complete whatever is started. Have many fine books around for perusal.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

THE Daily Crossword by Manny Miller

ACROSS	28 1002	60 Mieh. city	25 Vame
1 School	29 State: abbr.	62 More scarce	caplain
abbr.	30 Mada brif	63 Exaggerate	26 Actor
5 Actor	31 visits	64 Guldorian	Bates
Tamiroff	32 Hoard	65 Aplecs of	27 Young male
9 Come across	33 Not up to	66 Aplecs of	horses
13 Ticket	34 par	67 Aplecs of	31 Dish
sales area	35 Musical	68 Son of Sath	32 Kiln
15 Hus	36 show		33 Money for
16 "And they	37 Conspicuous-	DOWN	specific
lived	ly great	1 Genesis	purpose
happily —"	43 Lineman	2 name	34 Law en-
17 "Only —"	44 Interdict	3 Inlat	forcement
(old song)	45 Salaries	4 Lumberjack	guy
18 Tenant	46 Seetood	5 Relating to	36 Cancels
19 Curves	47 Item	6 Relating to	37 Not as big
21 Curves	48 Niger	7 Inluence	41 Organic
23 Horse-drawn	49 people	8 Inluence	compound
carriages	50 Side by	9 Tool chest	42 Billothea
24 Having	51 Slow up	10 Frozen	46 Spenser
reasoning	52 Lessen	11 Ponds,	specialties
skill		12 Taka —	47 Landed
		(deceive)	property
		10 "Girl of	48 Bowling
		my dreams,	term
		— you"	49 Intrigue
		11 — Parker	50 Macaw
		(busybody)	51 Kind of tea
		12 Habit	54 Vesuvius
		14 Reaim of	56 Mohammedan
		elves	call to
		15 Messenger	prayer
		20 Strapless	57 Photo
		shoe	printing
		22 Organized	process,
		passive	for short
		protest	58 Perform
		24 Furniture	61 Bandleader
		designer	Brown



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Angola, SWAPO reject South African proposal

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Angola and Namibian nationalist guerrillas based there have both dismissed South Africa's proposal for a 30-day disengagement of hostile forces in Angola.

Instead, Angola has circulated a proposed Security Council resolution demanding the unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from its territory and payment of reparations by Pretoria.

In a speech to the Council Friday night, and at a press conference later, Angolan U.N. representative Elisio De Figueiredo said South African forces had occupied parts of southern Angola since 1975 and had just launched a fresh offensive.

He said Council members should not be "duped by South African wiles."

Pretoria's proposal, outlined in a letter from Foreign Minister P. W. Botha to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, called for a 30-day disengagement beginning on January 31 by South

African and Angolan forces, as well as by guerrillas of the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) and Cuban troops deployed in Angola.

Mr. Botha said the disengagement could be extended if all sides observed it rigorously. But Mr. De Figueiredo said the "racist regime has really made no offer at all" and was only trying to divert the Council's attention in a debate on Angolan charges of South African aggression.

Before the debate, Theo-Ben Guirirab, U.N. observer for SWAPO which has been fighting South African rule over Namibia (South West Africa) for almost 20 years, said the disengagement proposal was of advantage only to Pretoria.

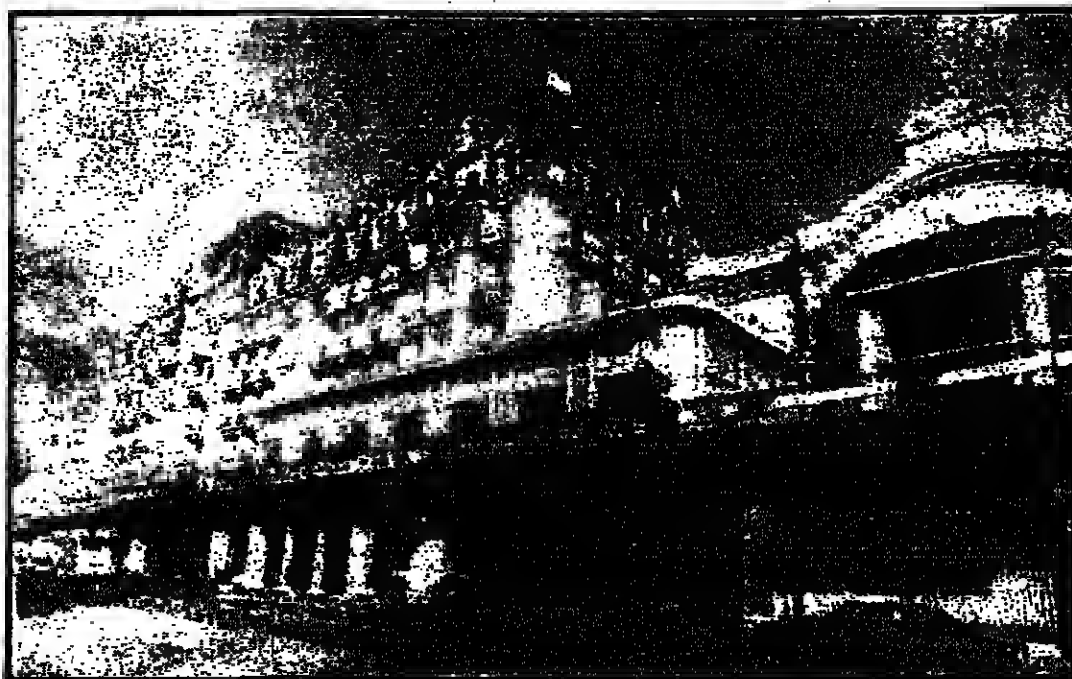
"The Angolans and Cubans have never entered Namibia, but

the South Africans have invaded Angola," he said.

South African ambassador Kurt von Schimding, who also addressed the Council and later met reporters, said his country's military operations in southern Angola had the sole objective of protecting Namibia against SWAPO attacks.

He said that Angola has summoned the Council meeting to hide aggressive designs against the people of Namibia and to distract attention from serious internal problems stemming from the imposition of an alien ideology with the help of the Cubans.

The United States, which supports South Africa's precondition that Cuban forces must withdraw from Angola before Namibia can become independent, has backed Pretoria's disengagement call. "This is a good positive step," State Department spokesman John Hughes said Friday. "We could achieve the goal that we have all been looking for in Namibia."



Montreux Palace-hotel at western Swiss Montreux will probably be the place where the second part of the Lebanon reconciliation talks would start at the end of this year, because Geneva is out of the question as the venue between Christmas and New Year. Swiss authorities as well as Lebanese embassy officials in Switzerland have confirmed that such a meeting has been tentatively agreed upon (A.P. wirephoto)

13 dead in Amsterdam club fire

AMSTERDAM (R) — A fire raced through a sex club complex in Amsterdam Friday night, killing at least 13 people and injuring about 20, police said Saturday.

The blaze was apparently started by an ex-employee who threw a can of petrol into the ground floor of the building in the centre of Amsterdam's red-light district, police said. The man was arrested. The fire spread quickly through the old building, which houses several sex clubs, forcing people to leap through windows and trapping others on upper floors, eyewitnesses said. Police found 13 bodies and were searching for more.

Most of the injured were hurt jumping from the building. They lay on the street for some time before rescue services could force their way through the narrow roads in the area.

The sex clubs there, which are uncensored and offer a wide variety of shows and films, attract many tourists, but the identity and nationality of the victims were not immediately known.

According to one eyewitness report, the arsonist poured petrol over part of the ground floor and central staircase before igniting it with some sort of pistol or lighter.

Scottish nanny free to quit Italy

LIVORNO, Italy (R) — Scottish nanny Carol Compton, cleared of a charge of attempted murder but given a suspended sentence for arson, was free Saturday to leave Italy.

The 21-year-old girl, dubbed a witch by some Italian newspapers because of her suspected supernatural powers, was given her passport.

The judge said there was insufficient evidence in convict her on the attempted murder charge of setting fire to a cot in which a three-year-old she was minding was sleeping.

The judgement was greeted by chaos in the court here as journalists and photographers scrambled and fought to get to Ms. Compton.

A few hours later, formal arrangements for her release were completed.

The judges began considering their verdict after a morning a courtroom drama.

The prosecutor Arturo Cindolo, summed up his case for a conviction by saying "you should acquit Carol Compton only if in good conscience you can say you would entrust your child to her."

Poodle and lorry driver wreck town

TORRINGTON, Devon (R) — A stray poodle brought havoc to the town of Torrington in southwest England Friday when a lorry driver got out of his cab to help to capture it. His unattended lorry rolled downhill, smashed into a parked car, demolished posts, ploughed through a fence, ploughed off a bank and crashed into a house, police said. Only the lorry driver was hurt — the poodle bit him on the thumb.

2 jailed for kidnap in Britain

LONDON (R) — Two Greek-Cypriot brothers and their accomplice were jailed for a total of 36 years for abducting a wealthy couple and holding them stripped and gagged for four days. A judge at London's Central Criminal Court jailed George Panay for 18 years, his brother Anastasi for 10 and accomplice Donald Grey for eight years. On Jan. 4 the three kidnapped Maria and Emmanuel Xureb from their luxury home in a south London suburb. After four days, Maria was released and clues provided by her led police to the house where her husband was then freed.

Paralysed woman requests to die

RIVERSIDE, California (R) — A California judge has denied a request by a crippled 26-year-old woman to be allowed to starve to death while in hospital care. "Our society values life," said Judge John Hews of Riverside County announcing his ruling after eight days of often-emotional testimony. Elizabeth Bouvia, paralysed from birth by cerebral palsy and confined to a wheelchair, told the court she preferred death to a pain-filled existence in which the smallest personal tasks must be performed for her.

U.K. plans new lie detector tests

LONDON (R) — British civil servants face lie detector tests as part of a new government drive to keep its secrets secret, the London Times said. The machines will be brought in for trial at the government communications headquarters in Cheltenham, western England. A former employee, Geoffrey Prime, was jailed for espionage earlier this year. After the case, an order for the detectors was sent to the United States.

U.S. considers permanently-manned space station

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan is considering development of a permanently-manned space station which could cost as much as \$19 billion by the year 2000, U.S. administration officials said. They said Mr. Reagan may seek up to \$200 million in his 1985 budget request to Congress to develop the project. But the officials said no hard decision had yet been made on whether to go ahead with the station or how much of its cost would be borne by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Defence Department. NASA officials said the space station under consideration would cost between \$8 billion and \$9 billion, and if development started next year could be launched by 1991.

U.S. army develops weapon to blind

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. army has developed a laser beam weapon that blinds enemy soldiers in close combat, the Washington Post said Saturday. The Post said development of the weapon had touched off a debate within the army on the ethics of its use. It said the laser beam, hitting troops who stared into it, struck an optic nerve causing a haemorrhage which flooded the eye with blood. The effect was irreversible. The Post said. It said the new weapon, called C-CLAW for Close Combat Laser Assault Weapon, could blind advancing troops from more than 1.5 kilometres away. But one of its drawbacks was that it did not work well in foggy or cloudy weather, which dispersed the laser beam.

Global Marine denies story of survivors

HOUSTON (R) — Global Marine said it had no evidence that any of the 81 crew on its drillship Glomar Java Sea survived when it sank in a tropical storm in the South China Sea in October.

Texas lawyer Douglas Pierce, whose son was one of the crew, has quoted an unnamed U.S. government official as saying at least 10 Americans and other crew were alive in Vietnam.

But Global Marine Vice President Richard Vermeer said the company had no information.

He said the company was trying to enlist the help of church groups and other intermediaries to determine whether any survivors were in Vietnam.

But Global Marine had been told by the Vietnamese ambassador to the United Nations that a search off Vietnam's coast found no evidence of survivors, he added.

Irish police hunt gunmen after freeing executive

DUBLIN (R) — Irish police were Saturday hunting gunmen who escaped after a shootout which freed kidnapped businessman Don Tidy but killed a young policeman and a soldier.

Mr. Tidy, British-born head of Ireland's largest supermarket chain, was rescued unharmed Friday from the Irish Republican Army (IRA) gang that seized him three weeks ago and demanded a five million pound (\$6.5 million) ransom.

Two members of the gang were captured, on injured, but police and troops are still hunting up to eight men thought to be involved.

The men who died were a 23-year-old police recruit and a 35-year-old soldier, married with three young children. Police said at least one died in a grenade blast. Another soldier and a policeman were wounded in the gun battle.

Early Saturday security forces were surrounding a wooded area in County Leitrim near the border

with Northern Ireland where a police patrol Friday surprised the gang, apparently as they were moving Mr. Tidy from one hide-out to another.

Police said it appeared Mr. Tidy, 42, had spent most of his captivity in a hole in the ground covered by plastic sheets.

Sporting a grey beard and looking tired, Mr. Tidy, a widower, was Friday night reunited with his daughter and two sons.

He was snatched by gunmen dressed as police manning a phone road-block as he was driving his 13-year-old daughter to school on Nov. 24.

In Parliament, deputies stood in silence as a mark of respect to the two members of the security forces that were killed.

Only two days ago the IRA, which is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland, was reported to have renewed its ransom demand.

Isabel Peron back in Spain

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Former Argentine President Isabel Peron flew back to Madrid Friday night after an eight-day visit to her country during which she asserted her authority as leader of the opposition Peronist Party.

In a short parting message read out at Buenos Aires Airport, Mrs. Peron promised to return soon "to consolidate our movement and lead it towards the triumph of our ideals."

Officials of the liaison committee which organised her trip said Peron would return to live permanently in Argentina next month, ending a two-year exile in Spain.

The sources said Mrs. Peron wanted to reduce the dominant role of trade unions in Peronism and give a bigger say to provincial leaders who did well in the elections, the women's wing and the youth movement.

She officially came to Argentina to attend the inauguration of President Raul Alfonsin, whose reformist Radical Party won the October 30 elections.

Mr. Alfonsin was sworn in last Saturday and later gave an interview to Mrs. Peron, who described him as "a brilliant president."

Farm vote crucial in Japan elections today

TOKYO (R) — Japan's politicians swung into a final strident day of campaigning Saturday for Sunday's general election, but many of the most crucial voters were once again out of reach of their loudspeakers.

Van-top amplifiers in towns and cities shrieked advice to Saturday morning shoppers on how to vote. But the votes carrying more weight than most were often out of hailing range in the farmlands of Japan.

It was on the rural electors that Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone was pinning much of his hope. He will have them to thank more than anyone if opinion polls are borne out and his Liberal

Democratic Party (LDP) is returned to power for a further four years.

The Lockheed corruption scandal in which former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka was convicted of taking a \$2-million bribe excited little indignation in the countryside.

Farm voters are considerably more concerned about the prospect of U.S. beef and apples being allowed into Japan as a result of the pressure now being applied by Washington.

Mr. Nakasone has firmly resisted this pressure, even when the case was put to him by the visiting President Reagan last month.

Soviet sub, or British depth charge, may have sunk trawler

By Leslie Dowd

LONDON (R) — A television thriller has revived the mystery surrounding a British trawler that vanished nearly 10 years ago with spying distance of the Soviet submarine base at Murmansk.

The 1,106-tonne stern trawler and factory freezer ship Gaul disappeared in the icy Barents Sea off the northern tip of Norway in 1974 without sending a distress call. No wreckage or sign of the 36 crew was ever found.

"Spyship", which was screened in six weekly episodes in Britain early December, was written by two former television researchers who made a documentary on the Gaul mystery in 1975.

Although an inquiry concluded that the Gaul sank in a storm, bizarre aspects of its disappearance have thrown up a range of theories: That it was seized by a sub-

marine or sunk by an underwater nuclear blast.

Relatives of the missing seamen never accepted that the superbly-equipped vessel simply foundered. Their wives disrupted the 1974 inquiry, shouting "stop rigging our ships for spying" and "you know where our men are — in Russia."

The Gaul's skipper was new and the radio operator had been on a three-week training course he would not discuss, giving rise to rumours among the crew's relatives in hull.

The Gaul's skipper was new and the radio operator had been on a three-week training course he would not discuss, giving rise to rumours among the crew's relatives in hull.

The British government denied the Gaul was equipped for electronic eavesdropping and concluded it was sunk in a storm that whipped up waves up to 16 metres

high.

Britain has always insisted it does not use civilian ships for spying, although the Soviet Union is known to operate up to 60 fishing vessels for intelligence gathering.

"The Gaul captured and founded due to taking a succession of very heavy seas on her trawl deck," the inquiry concluded.

"It seems likely that initially she was thrown so far over that those on board her were unable to transmit a distress message."

Yet the Gaul, just two years old and equipped with the latest radio equipment worth £100,000 (\$145,000), was built to ride out any storm.

Britain's National Maritime Institute later tried to sink a scale model of the vessel and failed.

The only trace of the trawler ever found was a lifebelt bearing the vessel's name. But it merely served to deepen the mystery as it was crusted with plankton that

could only live in inland or coastal fresh water.

It was found three months after the disaster 30 kilometres from the shore in a place it should not have been if the Gaul sank 130 kilometres off the coast.

"The 'Spyship' thriller was written by researchers Tom Keene and Brian Haynes, who spent nine months inquiring into the mystery for their original documentary.

"Spyship is fiction and in no way intended to dramatise what Brian and I think happened to the Gaul," Mr. Keene told Reuters.

"What happens to the trawler in spyship — and I'm not going to reveal the coding — is not what we think happened to the Gaul."

"We never found evidence the Gaul was spying but we did find evidence that other hull trawlers had been spying," said Mr. Haynes.

"You can't sink a ship the size of the Gaul that easily. On its bridge

there were panic buttons that send out instant distress signals, so what happened must have been so immediate that nobody could push the button and so off that no wreckage was ever found."

Trawlers have recently snagged nets on a wreck with the Gaul's configuration on the sea bed off the Norwegian coast, possibly solving the mystery of the vessel's location.

The most startling theory is advanced by hull man Leo Sheridan who, fascinated by maritime disasters, travelled to northern Norway in 1974 to carry out a private investigation.

Mr. Sheridan believes the Gaul was sheltering from the storm in remote Tanafjord and was sunk by a giant tidal wave caused by secret British testing of nuclear depth charges.

Two years after the Gaul was sunk, Britain disclosed it had developed such a weapon.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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DUMMY'S HIDDEN POWER

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH			
♠ 1032			
♥ 10763			
♦ 865			
♣ 1096			

WEST	EAST
♠ K87	♠ Void
♥ J98	♥ K542
♦ AK72	♦ J10943
♣ K72	♣ J853

SOUTH			
♠ AQJ9654			
♥ AQ			
♦ Q			
♣ AQ4			

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1♣	Pass	2♦	Dbic
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: King of ♣.

Here's an opportunity to test your technique. Would you rather play or defend four spades?

We do not approve of the bidding. East should show his four-card heart suit rather than raise diamonds. However, that would not have changed the final contract.

It seems that declarer can get to dummy only once because of the poor trump

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